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# THE TIMES

No. 65,271

FRIDAY MAY 19 1995

Dilemma for embarrassed Major

## Heath heads Tory revolt over Nolan

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR ran into a massive Conservative backlash against proposals for cleaning up "sleaze" at Westminster last night, and he may now have to depend on Opposition support if he wants to make the recommendations law.

One Conservative after another — including the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath — rose during a six-hour debate yesterday to protest about the Nolan committee's call for an independent watchdog to supervise MPs' behaviour and its proposals on declaring outside earnings.

By the end of the day, Mr Major, faced the embarrassing prospect of having to rely on Labour and other opposition parties to get the most controversial proposals through.

With his own position weak, and the threat of a leadership challenge in the autumn, senior MPs wondered if he could afford even to try. But if he fails to introduce the necessary Commons motions, he could hand Labour a huge electoral bonus, given the widespread public support for Nolan's conclusions.

Inside the Commons, Lord Nolan and several members of his committee watched from the public gallery as a succession of Conservatives voiced reservations over his report. Anthony Steen, the MP for South Hams, said he resented Nolan's implication "that all of us are crooks".

Outside the chamber, Mr Major was blamed for setting up the committee in the first place.

Several senior backbenchers said that Mr Major would have no choice but to push the report's key recommendations through; others said there would be "absolute uproar" if he did.

The most striking proof of the opposition came when Sir Edward, a lonely and unpopular figure for many years, was cheered loudly by Tory MPs throughout a speech lambasting proposals to regulate the behaviour of MPs.

When he entered the House in 1950, MPs were regarded as people of integrity, Sir Edward said. "We have now reached a stage where every



Why it is impossible to legislate for MPs' honour as Nolan wants — Enoch Powell, page 16

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man and woman in this House is an object of suspicion."

Sir Edward attacked the idea of an independent parliamentary commissioner for standards, asking how a bureaucratic organisation could find out what was happening at Westminster. "We in this House know far more of what is going on with our fellow members than any bureaucracy brought in from outside. Of course we do. What can this gentleman do? He can't come into the smoky room and say, 'By the way, have you heard so-and-so about so-and-so? Do you think I ought to look at that?' Of course not."

Lord Nolan was an "admirable judge", but "he seems to lack a certain worldliness, of realising what goes on in this world of ours."

Mr Major's dilemma is that having established the committee, he is now under great public pressure to put its recommendations into effect.

Proposals relating to MPs can be implemented only by

the tabling of Commons motions in the name of the Leader of the House, Tony Newton. These would usually be supported by the Government's "payroll vote" of ministers and parliamentary aides.

But if the Prime Minister goes ahead with the measure, there is a real danger that the payroll vote and Labour could be in one lobby while the rest of the Conservative party is in the other. One senior MP said: "That is an unthinkable state of affairs. How could he survive that?"

Passions were running high even before the debate got under way. Outside the Commons, the Conservative Alan Duncan, badgered Lord Nolan as he made his way to the House to hear the debate. Mr Duncan told him: "You are about to obliterate the professional classes' representation in the House of Commons. It is a very, very dangerous game."

The tone for the debate was set by early Tory interventions in the speech by David Hunt, the Minister for Open Government. Tristan Garel-Jones, a former deputy chief whip, suggested the details of Nolan be referred to a "senior committee of the House" to restore confidence with "clarity and care".

Nicholas Budgen, MP for Wolverhampton South-West, gave a warning against a "panic response" and called for any material changes in MPs' terms of office to be decided through "slow deliberation" by statute, which would "bite at the beginning of the next Parliament".

But Ann Taylor, the shadow Commons Leader, attacked any attempt to slow the pace of reform, recalling that Mr Major had asked the committee to make its first report within six months because of the "urgency and great weight of public concern".

"If it was important that Lord Nolan report in that timescale, surely it is important that the Commons should take action as quickly as possible," she said.

Mr Major's caution over the disclosure of consultancy fees had earlier been apparent when Tony Blair pressed the Prime Minister for his personal opinion. Mr Major declined to give it, saying that he was waiting for the House to give its view.



Janet Alderson and her husband Stephen yesterday after victory in her maternity rights battle with ICI

## Adoption mother wins equal rights

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE mother of an adopted child has won her campaign for the same maternity leave rights as a natural parent. The victory was hailed by the Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday as a landmark with implications for all working women who adopt.

Janet Alderson fought her employers, ICI, for unpaid leave of absence to enable her to form a parental bond with the two-year-old girl she and her husband adopted last year. The company gives natural mothers six months off on full pay.

Mrs Alderson, 38, a computer specialist, from Redcar, Cleveland, claimed that the firm had reneged on an agreement for six months' leave from its plant at Wilton on Teesside where she had worked for 14 years. Instead she was told that she would have to accept redundancy if she wanted

to spend time with her new daughter. But yesterday, on the second day of an industrial tribunal hearing her claim of sex discrimination and unfair dismissal, she agreed to withdraw her case when ICI promised to work with the Equal Opportunities Commission to introduce a formal policy recognising the rights of staff wishing to adopt.

Afterwards Mr and Mrs Alderson said they were "absolutely delighted" at the company's change of heart. "This was never about money, it was about the rights of parents who adopt," Mrs Alderson said. Her husband, Stephen, 39, said: "The past few months have been a strain and our daughter has sensed that something was happening."

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which had supported Mrs Alderson, sees the settlement as a major step toward national legislation protecting the rights of parents who adopt. Jennifer Eady, the

commission's principal legal officer, said: "Our priority is to persuade the Government to introduce statutory leave for all parents, whether it is through adoption or natural childbirth. In the meantime we hope other companies will follow ICI."

After the settlement was announced, Tim Russell the solicitor acting for ICI, read a statement in which the company said it intended to introduce a clear policy of assistance to employees who adopt children. "This policy will form part of the company's terms and conditions of employment. It is hoped that other employers will take steps to assist women in similar circumstances until such time as national legislation is in place to give them statutory protection."

ICI had denied Mrs Alderson's claim, saying she was made redundant when her department closed, not because she adopted a child. Mrs Alderson still works for ICI as an agency graphics illustrator.

## UN peace force may abandon Bosnia's havens

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations is considering cutting by half its force in Bosnia and abandoning Muslim "safe areas", according to details of a draft report obtained yesterday by *The Times*.

The report, to be presented to the Security Council before the end of the month by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary General, outlines five options for the future UN role in Bosnia, ranging from total withdrawal to a fully-fledged intervention force.

But Dr Boutros Ghali has already told the Security Council he favours a reduction and redeployment of the UN Protection Force, as in the second option of the draft. This would involve the withdrawal of about 11,000 peacekeepers.

The draft says: "This option would result in a substantial decrease in the presence of UNPROFOR in all areas outside the contiguous territory of the federation, including Sarajevo, and reduce the currently unacceptable high risk to personnel."

The proposal would spell the end of UN protection for the six UN-declared "safe areas" around Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihac, Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica. The implication is that some, if not all, of the areas would be abandoned by the United Nations altogether. The UN presence at Sarajevo airport, however, would almost certainly be maintained.

UN officials and diplomats caution that the draft has not been approved by Dr Boutros Ghali, and could still be amended. The proposal for reducing the UN force is to be discussed by senior Nato officials and UN commanders today at Soesterberg, in The Netherlands.

Offer to Belgrade, page 13

## QE2 'cruise to hell' chief resigns

By JONATHAN PAVIN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of the Cunard cruise line has left his job over his handling of December's disastrous QE2 "cruise to hell", in which hundreds of furious passengers threatened to mutiny over conditions aboard the luxury liner.

Trafalgar House, Cunard's owner, said that John Olsen, 52, was leaving at the end of the month "by mutual agreement". Mr Olsen, who is based in New York and was

yesterday unavailable for comment, will receive a compensation package running to tens rather than hundreds of thousands of pounds to cover the cost of his relocation back to England.

He will be replaced on the Trafalgar House board and as chairman and chief executive of Cunard by Peter Ward, chairman of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

Nigel Rich, chief executive of Trafalgar House, denied that Mr Olsen was being made a scapegoat for the

fiasco. "Taking the responsibility would be a better way of putting it," he said.

Trafalgar House refused to reveal his salary, but Mr Olsen is believed to be the overseas-based director listed in the company's 1994 accounts who was paid £506,000, including £206,000 of overseas living allowance.

A former Royal Marine, he became the focus of the anger

Continued on page 2, col 4  
Trafalgar losses, page 23  
Tempest, page 26

## BT chief's pay falls to £599,000

Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, revealed that his bonus for the year to the end of March fell by 38 per cent, to £115,000. His salary will rise by 3.2 per cent in July, however, giving him total pay this year of £599,000, compared with £663,000 last year. Page 23

## Our man loses his thief-proof Bentley

FROM ALAN COPPS IN BRESCIA



The car Alan Copps mislaid in an Italian garage

TO BE given one of the world's most desirable cars to drive for a week is a rare privilege. To find it spirited away in the night by thieves from a locked underground garage is mortifying.

When I woke up in my hotel in Brescia, northern Italy, yesterday morning, I found that the £215,000 Bentley Azure which I had driven here at the invitation of Rolls-Royce had disappeared. It is one of only 11 to be made so far. Is the model coloured pear-red and is certainly the first to be stolen.

The 155mph open-topped tourer launched with great fanfare at the Geneva Motor Show two months ago was the result of a £20 million two-year development programme by Bentley. It was seen as a turning point in the fortunes of the company, and all 118

due to be produced this year have been sold. To display its proudest new product, the company arranged for three of the Azzures to be used as support cars for a six-strong team of vintage Bentleys, the drivers of which include Prince Michael of Kent, in the Millie Miglia Rally which started from Brescia last night.

As editor of *The Times* Car 95 supplement, I had been invited with a colleague to drive one of the support cars. We had driven from the Channel Tunnel down to Brescia, having met the team in Switzerland. I parked the car in the hotel's underground car park.

When I went to pick up the car in the morning, the space where it had been left was occupied by a trailer. The 2.3-litre car had been stolen.

The Azure is 17ft long and 6ft 2in wide and has one of the biggest engines in the business, a 6.7-litre V8 capable of firing even such a big body to 60mph in 6.3 seconds. More to the point, it has an electronic locking and alarm system, which also immobilises the engine and locks the automatic gearbox into parking mode. To remove the car would mean either that the thieves used a device to cancel out the electronic locking system or that they had somehow dragged it on to a trailer and then towed it out of the garage up a steep ramp.

Rolls-Royce executives said the theft would be covered by insurance. But the thieves face an expensive get-away: the Azure guzzles a gallon of petrol every six to ten miles.

The theft was not Rolls-Royce's only trouble with the press: the man from the *Daily Mail* hit an articulated lorry with his.

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



### WEEKEND

Paul Heiney on pig perfection

### MAGAZINE

Summer food, wine and fashion: a 36-page supplement

### CAR 95

Last chance to win a luxury holiday

### VISION

The seven-day TV and radio guide

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### CHRONOMAT

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# Sir Edward shines among the enormously odd

Questioning Home Office Ministers yesterday, Max Madden (Lab-Badford W) accused the Government of overseeing what he called "orgies". Her Majesty's Opposition are so clean that they cannot even pronounce the word "orgy".

Minutes later, the leader of Mr Madden's party detected, in an answer from the Prime Minister, something that was "more than a little hollow". What could Mr Blair mean? What is more than a little hollow? A big hollow? A crater?

We begin to notice Blair's verbal comfort-blankets: a

strange weave of barrister's pomposity, PR man's ad-speak, and the bossiness of a tetchy head prefect. It was more than a little obvious — indeed, your Honour, it was hardly an exaggeration to say — that Mr Blair was less than satisfied, far from reassured and anything but content. It was a defining moment. Mr Blair was scarcely pleased and not a little suspicious.

He was a lot suspicious. And the Labour leader was not alone (oops). The PM's fate during yesterday's debate on Nolan was to be ambushed on all sides. The Opposition suspects him of



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

wanting to fudge Nolan's key recommendations: the Tory Right suspects him of not wanting to fudge them: the Tory traditionalists suspect him of conniving in a sabotage of parliamentary sovereignty; and the Tory centre-Left... well, they would be loyal, except for this business about consultations...

The result was a weird and confusing display of rockets and squibs firing off in all

directions. There was an unholy alliance between the Tory rightwingers and Tony Benn. Mr Benn thought many of Nolan's ideas ought to be adopted not as custom, but in the full majesty of statute: because constitutional authority was needed.

Tory rightwingers wanted statute because statute would mean delay: forever, they hope. Tristan Garel-Jones just wanted to confuse every-

body, as usual. Labour's front benchers want early action because they suspect the Tory front bench of wanting to duck the report.

The Tory front benchers want early action because the sooner they can dispose of this the better. The Labour back benches support the Tory front bench. The Tory back benches support Labour rebels. It was... well, more than a little odd. It was an enormous odd.

But the most enormous odd of all was the sight of Sir Edward Heath being cheered wildly by the Tory back benches. Sir Edward had

mounted an impassioned defence of Parliament's ancient right to govern itself, without outside invigilation.

He was, as often, a thorn in the Government's side, and Labour MPs have grown accustomed to cheering him. Yesterday they sat silent as Tory backbenchers, led by the anti-European Right, did the cheering. It must be nearly 20 years since Ted Heath has heard support like this from behind him. The old boy looked quite confused.

Later, to complete the looking-glass picture, Labour cheered the Tories' Tom King, who had sat on the

Nolan committee and yesterday endorsed its recommendations with force and eloquence.

Sir Edward cheered from behind — and Tom King cheered from in front. Worlds seemed to collide. The Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, stood at the bar, grinning. From the Peers' Gallery above, Lord Nolan himself peered down with an expression of absolute horror.

The question whether his lordship was more horrified by his report's enemies or its friends was anything but clear, far from simple, and not a little comic.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mayhew to meet Adams in America

Sir Patrick Mayhew said he would use an informal meeting with Gerry Adams in Washington next week to warn that the IRA must begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Féin can enter full-scale talks (Nicholas Watt writes).

The meeting, at the White House investment conference on Northern Ireland, will be the most important discussion between the two sides in more than 20 years.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said he would tell the Sinn Féin president that economic progress in Northern Ireland depended on people's confidence that peace will be permanent. Sinn Féin welcomed Sir Patrick's decision to meet, saying it would clear the way for further ministerial talks at Stormont, but Ulster Unionists condemned it as "crass".

### Police miss body

Police began an investigation yesterday into how mobile patrol officers attending a crash scene in the village of Redditch in Bedfordshire failed to spot the body of a woman inside an overturned car. It was 24 hours before a passer-by discovered the body. The investigation will centre on whether the delay cost the driver her life.

### Nurses fight back

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing yesterday rebuked the Health Minister who threatened nurses with the loss of their pay review body. In an open letter to Gerald Malone, she accused him of underestimating the fury of nurses and of failing to treat them equally with doctors.

### Unlawful killing

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded at Windsor yesterday by the East Berkshire coroner on Mark Newport, 24, whose family lives in Wokingham. Mr Newport died with 74 others when an Aeroflot Airbus crashed in a Siberian forest in March last year. The Russian pilot's 16-year-old son was at the controls.

### Nut inquiry

Scientists have embarked on the most comprehensive study yet of peanut allergy, which kills at least five Britons a year and affects thousands more. The team, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture at the Institute of Child Health in Bristol, uses data assembled in a three-year study of 14,000 mothers and their babies in Avon.

### V&A halts move

The Victoria and Albert Museum has pulled out of a plan to display a priceless collection of oriental material in a 19th century former mill in Bradford. The move to the strongly Asian Manningham district of the city would have been the V&A's first step outside the capital. The museum blamed doubts about long-term funding.

### Bird thief jailed

Derek Canning, 33, a warehouseman, was jailed for 18 months for trapping and selling peregrine falcons. He was stopped by police driving away from a nest site in Kielder Forest from where two chicks had been taken. Detectives raided his home at Hough Mill, Staffordshire, Northumberland, and discovered 14 other chicks.

### Beeline to past

Bacteria at least 25 million years old have been recovered by Dr Raul Cano and Dr Monica Borucki from the stomach of a Dominican bee preserved in amber. The harmless bacteria are being stored in a freezer at California State Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. The feat, reported in *Science*, has amazed other scientists.

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## SAS to find base with more space for troops

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE SAS is to move out of its Hereford headquarters, Stirling Lines, named after the regiment's founder, Colonel Sir David Stirling, because the special forces soldiers need more training space.

The Army's elite 22 SAS regiment is expected to relocate to an RAF air base which was closed down last year. RAF Hereford, about ten miles from the regiment's present barracks on the other side of town in Credenhill was where the RAF had its secretarial training college and airmen's command school.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday that a number of options were being examined for different headquarters. A spokesman for the MoD said: "We have reached a decision in principle to relocate the regiment. An old RAF base at Credenhill is the option which we hope to concentrate on." He added: "We have reached the stage where we are outgrowing the Stirling Lines base and because we can't expand the site we are having to look elsewhere."

One of the difficulties for the regiment has been the expan-

sion of housing estates around the present barracks. The spokesman said that moving to RAF Hereford at Credenhill would enable the regiment to continue its long-running relationship with the county of Herefordshire.

If ministers approve the switch to Credenhill, Stirling Lines will be sold as a prime housing site. The SAS museum which records the history of the famous regiment will be moved to the new base. MoD sources said the move was not motivated by any intention to increase the size of the SAS. There are currently about 400 men in the regiment.

The Stirling Lines site has only about 60 acres of land, compared with RAF Hereford, with 210 acres. The RAF base is also close to existing SAS training areas in the Brecon Beacons and Sennybridge.

The SAS which was founded in 1941, wanted to remain within a security-conscious community as well as close to St Martin's Church in Hereford where many of their soldiers, killed on active service, are buried. The SAS moved to the Hereford barracks the early 1960s.

The move from Stirling Lines, which used to be an artillery regiment barracks, is expected to take place within two or three years. The air base is seen as suitable for the SAS because it will need only minimal redevelopment. There are already married quarters there and the base is surrounded by high fencing.

One of the most famous SAS training facilities is the so-called "Killing House" where counter-terrorist experts carry out hostage-rescue exercises. It is not based at Stirling Lines but out in the country and will still be used by the regiment after the move.



Stirling: SAS founder

## Woman is to chair criminal Bar group

By FRANCES GIBB

ANNE Rafferty, QC, a leading criminal barrister and Crown Court recorder, has been elected to head the influential Criminal Bar Association.

Miss Rafferty, 45, a mother of three, will be the first woman chairman of the 2,000-strong Criminal Bar Association, which represents all barristers specialising in criminal work, prosecution and defence. She fought off challenges from Ronald Twiss, QC, and Rock Tansey, QC. John Nutting, QC, was elected vice-chairman.

Miss Rafferty was a member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice that reported in 1993, and was the first woman to chair the Bar Conference, the profession's annual flagship get-together.

Married to Brian Barker, QC, she holds forceful views on how much harder it is for women to succeed at the Bar and to juggle the demands of home and work. However, she has never played the "woman's card" and does not seek to champion women's rights.



Rafferty: mother of three fought off challenges

## Leaked memo accuses Aitken of confrontation on spending

By IAN MURRAY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JONATHAN AITKEN has been severely criticised for adopting a "confrontational" approach in last year's spending round.

A leaked memorandum by the most senior civil servant involved in local government shows that by November the Prime Minister was already unhappy about the budget settlement and had issued instructions to make sure that, in future, more money was made available for schools.

The memorandum, sent to other ministries in March by Andrew Turnbull, permanent secretary at the Environment

Department, says the way in which the Chief Secretary to the Treasury handled the public spending round was "confrontational and not conducive to a proper collective consideration of options".

The note complains that there was a lack of balance in the way papers were presented to the Cabinet "with more emphasis given to Treasury arguments than to those of the service departments".

The memorandum throws fresh light on John Major's announcement at the Conservative Central Council meeting in late March that there

would be extra money for education next year.

It discloses that by the end of the spending round in November, the Prime Minister was having second thoughts about the wisdom of Mr Aitken's squeeze.

At the final public expenditure Cabinet Mr Major "suggested that the spending needs of local government in the forthcoming survey be regarded as a priority bid on the reserve for 1996/97 and 1997/98".

Mr Aitken made no comment on the leak to the *Local Government Chronicle*.

## QE2 chief

Continued from page 1

of more than 600 passengers on the luxury Christmas cruise to New York and the Caribbean after the QE2 set out from Southampton with a £30-million refit only half finished. Another 500 had to be left behind at Southampton and did not sail on the "floating building site".

The passengers, who had paid up to £20,000 for the cruise, complained of "exploding toilets", dirty water swirling about the floor of luxury cabins and construction equipment blocking corridors. Some used champagne buckets as makeshift lavatories.

Mr Olsen met the passengers in an angry confrontation on board the liner in New York when dozens threatened to stage a sit-in. The problems continued when the ship was held in dock in New York for 37 hours over safety violations before being allowed to set off for the Caribbean.

About 130 passengers, led by Christine Hall, an American lawyer who was on the cruise, are suing Cunard in the US courts for \$100,000 compensation each (£63,000) and a \$50 million fund to cover any future health problems. A Trafalgar House spokesman said the claim would be resisted vigorously.

Shipping industry insiders said yesterday that the QE2 should not have been allowed to sail when she did.

"Other companies would have handled it in a different way," one said. "There was a feeling that they would muddle through and that it would be all right on the night."

Trafalgar losses, page 23  
Tempus, page 26

## School bans POG mania after classes are disrupted

By MARIANNE DARCH

PUPILS were ordered to leave their latest playground craze at home yesterday after the game POG was blamed for disrupting classrooms.

The giant Hawaiian tidily-winks were banned from Bechen Cliff School in Bath after heated disputes erupted between winners and losers. Roy Ludlow, headmaster of the grant-maintained boys' school, said: "It has caused arguments in the playground and pupils have been distracted by POG in their lessons as well. I have told the boys that if they bring the game to school, it will be confiscated."

Problems among the 977 pupils arose mainly between the 11 and 13-year-olds. Older pupils have not shown much interest in the game, which is lauded as the nineties version of marbles. Mr Ludlow said: "I haven't had any reaction from parents so I can only assume they support me."

The new flipping craze is viewed as a return to cheap and simple childhood toys. Until now it has only drawn sighs of relief from parents. Packets of six of the brightly coloured POGs cost just 99p and are trendy alternatives to expensive electronic gadgets.

The 1½ inch shiny discs are decorated with cartoon graphics and are widely available at newsagents and corner shops. Players stack the laminated discs face up and hit them with a special plastic one called a kini — the Hawaiian word for king. Discs landing

### THE GAME

■ POG was first played by employees of the Haleakala Dairy on the island of Maui, Hawaii, in the 1920s. They used bottle caps from a fruit drink made of passion fruit, orange and guava juice, hence POG.

■ An elementary school teacher revived her childhood game for pupils four years ago. It soon spread to America.

■ The craze sparked a World POG Federation and national tournaments with local and state spin-offs. There is a POG cereal, a POG cartoon series, a POG game show.

■ There are 70 different POG designs in this country, 134 worldwide.

face down are awarded to the flipper and whoever collects the most POGs wins.

Waddington's, POG's British manufacturer, defended the product yesterday. Andrew Palmer, the firm's brand manager, said: "POG is a harmless game which encourages children to play together rather than staring at screens. It allows children of all abilities to compete as equals."

"But unless teachers use POG as a learning tool within the lesson, the game should stay in pockets in the classroom."

He said his company was

overjoyed with the response. "POG is a phenomenon in America and so we were not surprised to see it reach craze status in the UK," he said.

More than four million games have been sold in Britain since its launch in February. The craze shows no sign of abating.

The modest price puts POG well within pocket money budgets and the range of 70 designs means discs have become collectors' items. Limited editions are enhanced with holographic foils and most feature a hairy monster with a large nose and teeth called the POGman.

POG mania stands to reach new heights this summer when the POGman himself starts his first tour to coincide with Britain's first national tournament.

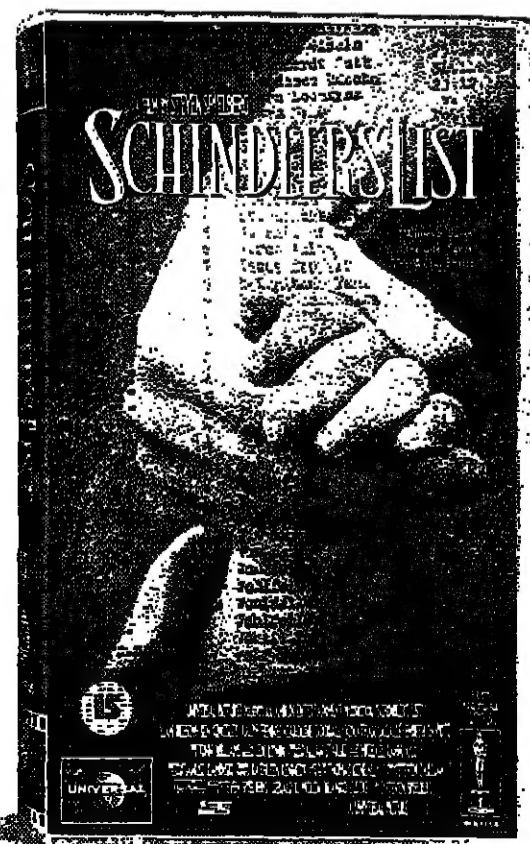
Last week, POG was tipped "game of the year" by BBC's children's programme, *Newsround*, and style pundits including Steve Wright have lauded it as "the new game".

Euan Kerr, editor of the *Beano*, recognised the promotional potential of POG in February and offered free packs with issues of the classic childhood comic. Sales went up by more than 20 per cent, with children buying several copies each to feed their hunger for the discs.

A spokeswoman at Hamley's toy store in central London, where sales have taken off, said: "It is supposed to be non-addictive but there seems to be many people who are very taken with it indeed."

"Quite simply one of the greatest movies ever made."

Gerald Kaufman MP DAILY TELEGRAPH



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## Husband fled to France to escape debts and relive holiday memories

# Bank manager given two years for £100,000 theft

By KATE ALDERSON

AN ASSISTANT bank manager who went on the run in France for seven months after stealing almost £100,000 from the bank where he worked was jailed for two years yesterday.

Ian Lumb, 38, worked at the NatWest bank in Bolton, Lancashire, when he stole £94,000 from a safe and cash-point machine in May last year. The court was told that he had debts of £130,000 that were unknown to his wife and was "effectively suffering a breakdown" at the time of the theft.

Judge Lever, QC, told Lumb, who returned from France last Christmas and has returned or repaid all but £120 of the money, that despite the "extraordinary circumstances" of the case, he had no choice but to give him a custodial sentence.

"You are an assistant bank manager and you stole £100,000 from your employers," he told Lumb. "In this last analysis that is all there is to it."

Before sentencing, the judge said he had taken into account the "highly individual factors" that led the bank manager to leave behind his family and established lifestyle to conduct "this extraordinary nomadic existence" in France. He told him: "It must be true that your mind must have been in



Daughter took call

tumult because of the illogicality of your actions, not simply disappearing with that money to live the life of an itinerant abroad but, having stolen such a large sum, to return it in the circumstances you did over such a long period of time."

Susan Lumb, 33, the defendant's wife, was in court to hear that her husband, who worked for the bank for 20 years, had large debts and "serious underlying problems" when he stole the cash. He went on a five-year spending spree after he cashed £25,000 of NatWest shares, spent the money on luxuries, and then found he "could not stop".

His £25,000 salary could not

support his lifestyle. He had a £50,000 home, two cars, a love of golf, designer clothes and gold jewellery, and made heavy investments on the stock market.

Six months before the theft NatWest had told him they regarded his debts as "inappropriate", and had arranged a repayment scheme. Philip Curran, for the defence, told the court: "The financial difficulties clearly were the trigger to what happened on that day."

The court was told he had once boasted to a colleague that one day he would "clear this place out" and had persuaded a clerk to show him how the cash dispenser worked from inside the bank.

On Friday May 13 last year, Lumb took the money after the bank had closed and loaded it into a canvas bag. He then took a ferry to France, changing his appearance by shaving his beard, avoiding resorts with British tourists and staying in small guest houses.

Mr Curran said: "It must have been a lonely existence. At times he was suicidal, not knowing what to do for the best."

"He did not live a high lifestyle in France but stayed in bed-and-breakfasts and sometimes in his car. In his own mind, he probably did not know what he was doing."

Mrs Lumb and their two daughters, Jenni, 13, and Nicole, 11, heard nothing from Lumb for two months. In July last year, while Mrs Lumb's parents, George and Joan Clegg, were on holiday in the Loire, they returned to their car to find a parcel, letters and photographs from Lumb.

A note said: "Please don't open this parcel, it is very personal for my wife and children." When they returned home Mrs Lumb found it contained £24,000 in cash, letters, photographs and her husband's wedding, engagement and signet rings.

During the following months Lumb conducted a



Ian Lumb and his wife Susan arriving at court yesterday. She made several trips to France to try to find him

nostalgic tour of France in hire cars, on a bicycle and by train, revisiting places he had spent holidays with his wife and family.

Lumb sent home a series of postcards and snapshots: from La Rochelle and the southwest of the country, where the couple had spent their honeymoon 14 years before, from restaurants where they had shared meals; from a caravan site where they had holidayed.

There was a box of matches from a favourite hotel in Paris and a photograph of a golf course where they had played. The postcards were accompanied by jokey notes. One carried the message: "Cleggy (his nickname for his wife

from her maiden name), this is where you ate the brain of something. I can't remember. Sheep?"

Another on a photo of a restaurant in Etaples said: "I had fish soup again!" He remembered birthdays and anniversaries and sent presents. He also returned £55,000 of stolen money by post.

Mrs Lumb, a beauty therapist, regularly travelled to France to search for her husband and made repeated appeals for him to come home. She said: "He refused to face up to reality so he is revisiting all the places we went to where we were happy."

But as the months passed his tone became increasingly desperate and lonely. One

card read simply: "Lost in France."

Lumb was on the verge of suicide last December, the court was told. In a hotel room in Annecy, at the foot of the Alps, he wrote Christmas cards home and then mixed himself a lethal cocktail of paracetamol and Permidol. Then he telephoned home to hear his wife's voice on the answering machine for the last time.

But the telephone was picked up by his daughter Jenni, who said quickly: "Dad, if that's you, I love you. Don't hang up."

Mrs Lumb said: "Ian had rung in a terrible state but he agreed to come home after he listened to Jenni's voice. He told me he couldn't go through

with it and I told him we loved him and wanted him back."

On Boxing Day the fugitive banker drove his French-registered Renault into the drive of his home in Rawtenstall, Lancashire, to be reunited with his family.

He was granted bail to stay at the family home and pleaded guilty to theft last month. His mother-in-law helped to repay £25,000 of the missing money. The court was told that a further £10,000 had gone missing in the post from France.

Speaking outside court yesterday John Potter, Lumb's solicitor, said his client deeply regretted what had happened and wished to apologise to his family, the bank and its customers.

## Clamper jailed after 3-year battle

By PAUL WILKINSON

DOGGED determination by a man who believed his car had been unfairly wheel-clamped has led to a four-month prison sentence for the head of a car-clamping firm.

Ralph King tried for almost three years to get back the £75 he had paid to secure release of his car, which he had parked on waste ground at Newcastle upon Tyne. His tenacity paid off when he saw Victor Spencer, manager of Independent Parking Services of Hutton-le-Hole, Tyne and Wear, sentenced for perjury himself in a county court.

Judge Stephenson, sitting at Newcastle Crown Court, told Spencer, 35: "This matter is far too serious to justify anything other than an immediate custodial sentence. You told lies to the county court. That quickly became apparent."

The judge praised Mr King's determination: "It shows what can be achieved."

During his battle, Mr King, a 48-year-old accountant from Morpeth, Northumberland, made five court appearances, tracked down Spencer to his home, wrote him more than 20 demands for the money and eventually provided the evidence that he had lied in court.

Yesterday, Mr King said: "Maybe if more people stood up for themselves these firms would think twice about clamping cars for the sake of it."

He had been awarded the £75 and costs by Durham County Court after the clamping company failed to appear. He said it had been his responsibility to get the money from the firm so he set about tracking it down.

Eventually Spencer was ordered to court to declare his personal wealth to see whether he was able to pay Mr King. Mr King said: "He stood up under oath and told the clerk of the court that he owned no assets apart from a second-hand van. He said he didn't own his home and lived with his mother."

Mr King said that before the case went to Crown Court he received a cheque for £250 signed V Spencer. "He paid up in the end but by that time it was too late."

## Poisonous row blooms forth at the Chelsea Flower Show

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

ORGANISERS of the Chelsea Flower Show have accused *Gardening Which?* of sensationalising an exhibit on dangerous plants, planned by the magazine.

*Gardening Which?* has been forbidden from calling its exhibit, which includes parsnips and rhubarb, a display of "poisonous plants". The Royal Horticultural Society is insisting on the less tabloid term "potentially harmful".

However, the publication defended its use of words, pointing out that it was a popular magazine and had to use terminology understood by its readers.

Stephen Bennett, shows director for the Royal Horticultural Society, said yesterday: "We feel that the gardening public deserve an accurate description of the extent to which these plants are toxic. We don't feel it is helpful for plants

which are not poisonous to be described as poisonous."

The dispute stems from what some in the gardening establishment see as the misrepresentation by the media of a two-year research project by the Horticultural Trades Association into dangerous plants. The research produced a list of 93 species that will need special labelling before being sold by garden centres. Only one plant type, the poison ivy, was identified as "poisonous". The others were described as toxic or harmful.

The research was commissioned and paid for by, among others, the Royal Horticultural Society but not the Consumers' Association, which publishes *Gardening Which?* The researchers, which included the National Poisons Unit, agreed the term "potentially harmful" correctly described the varieties. The labels

should be on all such plants sold from September 1997.

The magazine has produced a "walkchart" of "poisonous plants" and wanted to use the same expression to describe its Chelsea display.

The exhibit, in the Great Marquee, will include a selection of plants in old-fashioned blue-glass poison bottles. A laburnum tree will be planted behind mock barbed-wire.

The Royal Horticultural Society represents gardeners rather than traders but realises the strong feelings of some in the horticultural trade. "Some exhibitors object strongly to what the Consumers' Association is doing," Mr Bennett said. "The Chelsea show opens to Royal Horticultural Society members on Tuesday and Wednesday and to the public on Thursday and Friday."

The exhibit was defended strongly by Dr Brian Groult,

research manager for *Gardening Which?* He pointed out that the young leaves of parsnips should not be eaten and could be accidentally included in a salad. Rhubarb leaves and laburnum seeds were also harmful to eat.

"We write a popular magazine," he said. "Our readers understand words like poisons. Being technically accurate isn't terribly useful if you are talking to Mr and Mrs Average wanting to know whether they should have something in the garden where their grandchildren are playing."

The society was supported yesterday by Stephen Goddard, a nurseryman, as he prepared a display in the marquee. "Poisons makes you think of arsenic," he said. "These plants that they are going to say are poisonous, people have been growing them for years."

## Soraya clashes with titled landlady

By ALAN HAMILTON

AN UNSEEMLY exchange of insults has broken out in the newspapers between a fallen socialite and her well-to-do landlady. In a previous life Mrs Sara Kay was Mrs Soraya Khashoggi, married to an arms dealer and one of the world's richest men.

As the wife of Adnan Khashoggi, she had three homes in London, two in Switzerland, did lunch, and could spend more in an hour than most people earn in a lifetime. They divorced in 1980.

Now, down on her luck, the former Mrs Khashoggi rents a back-street terraced house in Hungerford, Berkshire, for £400 a month, runs a market bistro-brac stall, works as a barmaid and waitress at the Bear Hotel, and generally lies low. Or at least she did until her landlady, Lady Cordelia Troup, dy, Lady Cordelia Troup, wife of a retired vice-admiral, discussed her once-famous tenant with the *Daily Mail*.

"It was not somewhere I would expect someone of any class to occupy," Lady Troup



At odds: the former Mrs Khashoggi and Lady Troup

remarked somewhat wittingly of the modest property in Fairview Road. "It is very much what you would call a working-class house; it has traditionally been occupied by artisans." Lady Troup and her husband Sir Anthony, a wartime submarine hero, live in considerably greater style elsewhere in Hungerford.

Yesterday Mrs Kay, born Sandra Daly 53 years ago in Leicester, retaliated through the columns of the *Newbury Weekly News*. "I don't think this is a humble area," she says in a letter to the paper. "What on earth do they mean, and what is wrong with artisans and working-class folk anyway? We are all equal. Lady Troup just lives in a bigger house than we do at Fairview Road but she is very happy to take the money. I find her remark insulting. I am very happy

where I am." Mrs Kay goes on to complain, however, that the house has numerous faults and is extremely cold and damp. She said after she had requested that the kitchen floor be repaired she had tried to have the work done herself but had been stopped by the estate agents.

The public exchange of unpleasantnesses has failed to clarify the future of Mrs Kay's tenancy. She disclosed yesterday that she had been asked to vacate the house on June 13, when her tenancy agreement ends, so that repairs could be done. But she added that she found it impossible to rent another house in the area because everyone believed she was being evicted. "I shall have to stay here."

Lady Troup retorted yesterday that her tenant was not being evicted. But the two appear never to have spoken, except to communicate by megaphone through the public prints. "I don't have any contact with her and I've never seen her," the landlady said of her tenant.

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## Leeson's lawyers disclose Singapore claim to police

**BY ROBERT MILLER**

in the international world markets.

Mr Leeson's British and German lawyers said yesterday that as part of their strategy they had offered the Serious Fraud Office access to the 1,000-page extradition document filed in a German court by Singapore. The SFO, which had been denied sight of the document by a Singapore court, will look for evidence to build a case for Mr Leeson's extradition to Britain.

Fraud squad officials also need to feel they have a good chance of securing a conviction in a British court if he did return. For this, the SFO will have to prove that Mr Leeson intended to defraud the 233-year-old merchant bank or that Barings staff in London were involved.

Alternatively, it might be argued that false material allegedly provided by Mr Leeson about a shortfall of 7.7 billion Japanese yen at the Singapore end was incorpo-

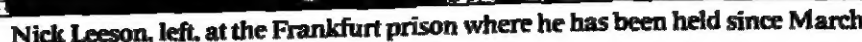
The SFO said: "We have been offered some information by Mr Leeson's lawyers, Kingsley Napley, which we shall be studying to assess its value and relevance to our investigation. But we are not in competition with the Singapore authorities."

Mr Leeson, 28, was detained at Frankfurt airport March 2. On April 28, four days before the extradition deadline, Singapore presented its request with 12 allegations of wrongdoing, including four counts of forgery and eight of cheating.

Two of the four forgery allegations relate to the signature of the Wall Street financier Richard Hogan, one to Citibank and another to Baring's internal reports. The latter two do not include signatures and under German law cannot be considered

holding him in Germany, of some of the Singapore documents. This is on the ground that the alleged document forgery was not punishable in Germany because it involved

The first part of the Leeson team strategy, however, is to



avoid extradition to Singapore. Each of Singapore's 12 counts of cheating and forgery carries a possible sentence of seven years' imprisonment.

the background is the strong trade links between Germany and Singapore which make the German authorities loath to cause offence.

Mr Leeson's legal team feels strongly that a trial in Singapore would involve only a small area of the Barings

downfall and that evidence showing senior Barings staff in London should have known the risks that Mr Lesson was taking will not be aired. This would leave him as a convenient scapegoat and stifle any chance of the full reasons for the collapse being revealed.

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

**AN ILLEGAL** immigrant who pocketed more than £1 million dealing with bogus claims for political asylum and arranging "marriages" was jailed for 18 months yesterday.

Indian-born Paul Singh made an estimated £1.25 million in five years advising immigrants how to obtain asylum and used prostitutes in "wedding ceremonies" to help his clients to remain in Britain.

Singh, 35, is estimated to have dealt with more than 1,000 cases and arranged 650 "marriages". He charged customers up to £750 for his services, which included advice on how to apply for welfare benefits. Southwark Crown Court was told.

Brendan Finucane, for the prosecution, said: "The rewards of this activity were clearly very substantial indeed. It is believed much of the cash he made is hidden in bank accounts in America."

Judge John Rogers, passing sentence, said he would make the strongest possible recommendation to the Home Office that Singh, who had admitted four sample charges of attempting to obtain property by deception, be deported after serving his sentence.

Singh arrived in Britain in 1984 in his real name of Pritpal Singh Sarna but was deported two years later after being convicted of attempted deception. Two months later, having changed his name to Paul Singh, he returned to Britain and avoided efforts to remove him again by marrying a British citizen.

He set up a business, Anglo-Indian Services, which he ran from his home in Wembley, north London. He specialised in Nigerian, Indian, Bangladeshi, Polish and Algerian cases. The applications were often identical "to the last comma", Mr Finucane said.

Singh's aim was to start the political asylum process to give those he was representing a few months' breathing space to arrange a wedding ceremony. In 1993 a Channel 4 documentary secretly filmed him boasting of his activities. At one point he brandished a "little black book" he claimed contained more than 300 names of clients and potential partners. In May last year he was convicted of forgery and handling stolen goods and jailed for 58 days.

Outside court Det Con Richard Davis, of Scotland Yard's international and organised crime branch, said that to his knowledge nearly all Singh's clients remained in Britain. Many were on benefit or had "got lost in the system".

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FRIDAY MAY 19 1995

THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 19 1995

HOME NEWS 5

## Violent boyfriend killed himself after leaving macabre notes about 'shotgun wedding'

### Ex-fiancé shot model on day they planned to wed

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MODEL told an inquest yesterday that she thought she was going to die when her former fiancé fired a sawn-off shotgun at her head seconds before turned the weapon on himself.

Amanda Horry, 23, whose face is scarred from her wounds, told the inquest into Paul Common's death that he lured her to remote countryside, near Harburn, Northumberland, on the day they had planned to marry. The hearing in Newcastle upon Tyne had already heard that Mr Common, 26, from Ashington, Northumberland, could not get over the break-up of their relationship and had left macabre suicide notes about the "shotgun wedding" he planned for them.

Miss Horry said she broke off their engagement last year because of Mr Common's violence, but on November 26 he asked to meet her. She said: "I would not agree to it, then he reminded me it was



Common: revenge

the day we should have been married and he said he needed to talk. When he came he said he needed fresh air and wanted to go for a walk.

"We walked along a country path and came to a garage-type building. He went ahead and then called me inside. He was crouching down and pulled a gun from his side. He fired from about 2ft. It

hit me in the left arm. I screamed and started to run back towards the car. He chased after me and tripped me over. He stood over me and shot me again, hitting me in the jaw. I looked up and saw him putting another cartridge into the gun. I got up and ran.

"When I looked back he was pointing the gun at his head. I heard a noise and looked back to see him lying on the ground. I don't know where he got the gun from. I had never seen it before. He must have had it inside his jacket when we went for the walk."

Leaving two motorists to tend Mr Common, Miss Horry drove to Harburn to raise the alarm. A police helicopter flew her 30 miles to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle where she underwent emergency surgery. An air ambulance took Mr Common to the same hospital, where he died.

Miss Horry said they became engaged five months after meeting in November

1992 and bought a house. She said: "After we started living together the relationship began to sour. He was violent towards me."

After an argument she moved back to her parents' house and called off the wedding. "He was very depressed and upset and told me he was thinking about committing suicide. He begged me to come back and said he would change his ways."

"After a few days I thought he was coming to terms with the break-up, but one afternoon he rang me and said he would hurt me and get revenge for what I'd done. He said he'd have the last laugh."

Detective Sergeant Jonathan Trafford, of Ashington CID, said: "We recovered a note from his pocket which was like a will. There were four other notes at his home. The letters referred to a shotgun wedding he was planning and asked for him and Amanda to be buried together."

The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.



Miss Horry leaving the inquest yesterday. She was shot in the arm and jaw

### Vesuvius victims' teeth free of craters

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE people of Herculaneum, who met an untimely end when Vesuvius erupted in 79AD, at least went to their graves with healthy teeth.

A team of Italian dentists and pathologists say that despite a diet rich in honey, the remains of 53 skeletons from Herculaneum show little evidence of tooth decay. The secret was a water supply containing plenty of fluoride. The team, led by Dr Gino Fornaciari of the University of Pisa, studied 1,275 teeth from the people who died when Herculaneum was overwhelmed along with Pompeii. Only 49 of the teeth showed decay, they report in *The Lancet*. They are convinced that natural fluoride was responsible.

Two of the skeletons failed to show high fluoride levels. These, the authors speculate, were the unluckiest victims of all: members of the Roman aristocracy who happened to be staying at their villas in Herculaneum the day the volcano erupted.

### PC says woman most violent he had dealt with

By RICHARD DUCE

THE Jamaican illegal immigrant Joy Gardner was the most violent woman ever encountered by a police officer who helped colleagues to secure her with a gag and leather belts while trying to deport her, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

PC Brian Adamson, who was bitten by Mrs Gardner during the struggle, was called in to help three officers from Scotland Yard's Alien Deportation Squad to deport her from her home in Hornsey, north London, back to the West Indies in July 1993.

"Along with another uniformed officer and an immigration official it became clear to all six that Mrs Gardner, 40, had no intention of willingly complying with the deportation order, PC Adamson said.

Mrs Gardner was shouting and screaming at the officers, who were forced to cut the chain lock on her front door to gain entry to the first-floor flat where she lived with her young son. PC Adamson, who has 12 years' police experience during which he has been assaulted between 15 and 20 times, told the court: "She was certainly the most violent female I have ever encountered in my service."

He said that even after she was finally gagged and bound Mrs Gardner continued trying to scream and shout. She had continued to shake her

head and screaming "as if in a fury". Minutes later it was noticed that she had stopped breathing and it was PC Adamson who unsuccessfully tried to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation.

The three officers working for the ADG, Detective Sergeant Linda Evans, 42, PC Colin Whitby, 48, and PC John Burrell, 49, all deny the manslaughter of Mrs Gardner, who died in hospital three days after the incident.

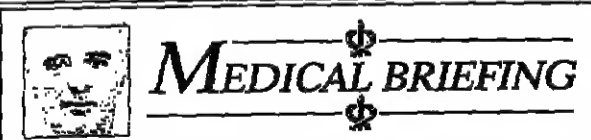
PC Adamson said that during the struggle he took hold of Mrs Gardner's arm. "She bit my left arm. I was in short sleeves. It was an extremely hard and painful bite."

Someone had shouted "Deck her" and Mrs Gardner and the other officers fell to the ground breaking a chair. He said PC Whitby then put restraint belts round her waist, thighs and ankles. "Tape was placed round her mouth by, I believe, PC Whitby." He added: "It started at the back of her head and wound round in between the teeth in the mouth. She was biting the tape and still shouting."

PC Adamson concluded: "I feel the force used on Mrs Gardner was reasonable in all the circumstances."

The prosecution alleges that Mrs Gardner suffocated after she was gagged with 13ft of adhesive tape.

The hearing continues.



### Exercise: finding a healthy balance

By Dr Thomas Stuttford

NICHOLAS FLEMING, the author and Oxfordshire landowner who died suddenly while playing tennis, was polite to the last. His final words, "I'm sorry", presumably an apology for making himself a nuisance by interrupting the match, would not have disgraced a hero in a book by his uncle Ian Fleming. Nicholas, 56, had had a coronary bypass after a heart attack six years ago and eventually resumed his energetic way of life.

Rehabilitation after a heart attack, or a bypass, should aim at a balance so that the patient neither becomes too frightened to venture out — nor so obsessed by not changing his way of life that his heart is subjected to unnecessary stress. In his book on the medical aspects of exercise, Dr Henry Solomon gives warning that to push oneself to greater limits because one has no symptoms can lead to "unpredictable disasters. By planning a more modest level of exercise you help yourself remain on the side of safety."

After somebody has had serious heart problems diagnosed the doctor should persuade them to take a degree of exercise that will keep their heart in reasonable trim, and their peripheral blood cells

efficient in using the oxygen in the bloodstream, without subjecting the heart to such severe exertion that the blood pressure rockets, and its normal rhythm is lost.

Sudden death in a patient with heart disease which occurs during or soon after violent exercise or emotion usually has a different cause from that in cases of angina that has become worse.

Sometimes sudden death is the result of a rupture of one of the fatty plaques attached to the arterial wall; the debris of the plaque may be carried along the coronary arterial stream until it blocks a narrow section of artery. In other cases, death is from a sudden change in the heart's rhythm; this too may be precipitated by exercise or emotion.

The sensitivity of the heart's timing system, and its liability to develop an abnormal rhythm, is increased if the body's chemical balance is disturbed by heavy sweating during exercise, as in a game of squash.

The British Heart Foundation is funding research at St George's Hospital, Tooting, into deaths such as that of Mr Fleming. Patients are fitted with a 24-hour electrocardiogram recording machine to monitor the effect of exercise.

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# Earth watches as dying spacecraft enters twilight zone

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS are this week listening for the faint heartbeat of a spacecraft carrying a message from the human race into infinity.

Four billion miles away, Pioneer 11 is about to lapse into silence more than 22 years after it was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida. When it does, any future contact it makes with intelligent beings will leave them pondering over a plaque bearing the image of a naked man and woman, the man's palm raised in greeting.

The craft was designed to explore the outer planets, Jupiter and Saturn, then sail into interstellar space. Aware that it might one day be intercepted by aliens, NASA placed the "visiting card" aboard. There is also a diagram of the hydrogen atom, a locator map identifying the position of the Sun and a diagram of the solar system. From this, it was believed, strangers could work out where Pioneer 11 had come from.

Pioneer 11, whose odyssey began in 1973, is now so distant that its fading signals — a mere four billionths of a trillionth of a watt — take more than six hours to reach Earth. NASA officials are to conduct one final test that could extinguish those signals for ever.

Next week engineers will contact Pioneer 11 to see if it can operate at a reduced



Pioneer 11 over Jupiter: an artist's impression

voltage. There is a risk that this may shut the spacecraft down but it is worth taking because, according to Fred Wirth, the project manager, its days are numbered: by August it is expected to have too little power to operate its scientific experiments.

"For all intents and purposes, after August the mission of the spacecraft is over because what good is a spacecraft if it doesn't return science data? You can't justify spending money on no data," Mr

Wirth said. "That's why we're using Pioneer 11 at its last moments to see how it functions on reduced power."

Pioneer 11's sister ship, Pioneer 10, is even further away. Both use the decay of radioactive plutonium to provide their power. The two spacecraft were virtual twins but for reasons that are not understood Pioneer 10's power supply has lasted better. Already the most remote object ever made by man, it is 5.8 billion miles away and is expected to go on sending data for another three or four years.

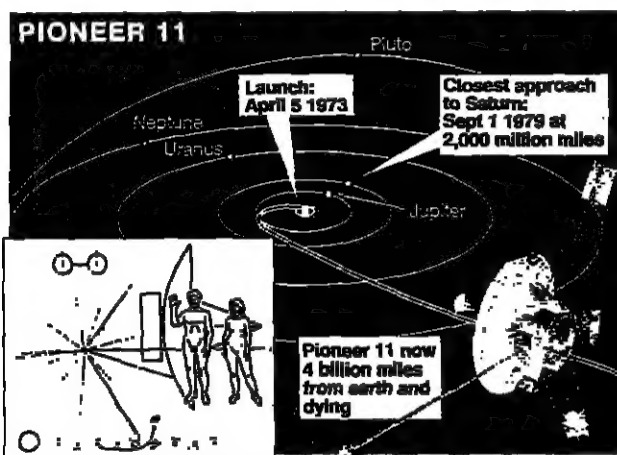
James Van Allen, a physicist at the University of Iowa and discoverer of the radiation belts around the Earth that bear his name, has experiments on both craft that continue to work well.

He said: "The new tests planned this month may result in a loss of orientation and a loss of tracking. I don't discount that totally." However, he hopes that Pioneer 11 will survive a little longer. "I still have the strong impression that the funeral is a little bit premature."

The longevity of the two spacecraft, built by TRW Inc in California, has astonished engineers. Pioneer 10 was launched in March 1972. Pioneer 11 in April 1973. Both visited Jupiter and Pioneer 11 flew on to Saturn, making the first observations at close quarters in 1975. It discovered Saturn's eleventh moon, the fact that the planet has a magnetic field a thousand times stronger than Earth's, and two new rings.

In 1990, it passed beyond the orbits of the planets, continuing to send back data about cosmic radiation. The precise paths followed by the two spacecraft have since been used to calculate whether there is a tenth planet in the solar system. The results suggest that if there is, it approaches the Sun only every 700 to 1,000 years.

Whatever happens in the tests, there will be no stopping either spacecraft, which will continue silently into space for ever. "I feel pretty sad to see the old bird fold up," Dr Van Allen said. "But it's had a glorious history."



Pioneer 11's course and, inset, its "calling card"



Dog-handlers Naomi Bedford and Liz Burns giving their eager charges an outing at Dover yesterday

## Spaniels hunt hidden immigrants

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

SPRINGER spaniels deployed to sniff out immigrants being smuggled into Britain are to be used at key ports in southern England as part of a drive to stop illegal entrants from the Continent.

The number of dogs is to be doubled after a 12-month successful pilot scheme at Dover, where four dogs detected 150 illegal entrants concealed in lorries behind false walls and floors. The immigration service has decided to make the Dover operation permanent and an extra four spaniels will enable random dog detection at Harwich, Felixstowe, Newhaven, Portsmouth, Poole and Southampton.

Nicholas Baker, the Immigration

Minister, said yesterday during a visit to Dover: "Bill, Millar, Jake and Bruno have proved their worth at Dover time and again. They are lively animals, very friendly and very good at their job."

The dogs, usually given to the immigration service by the public or taken from homes for abandoned animals, are trained at the armed services defence animal centre, where they search out pieces of pork, which most closely resemble human scent.

Christine Penry, an immigration officer and dog handler at Dover, said

that the spaniels were ideal for the work because of their hunting and retrieving instincts. If during a 7½-hour shift at Dover the dogs detect no illegal immigrants, someone is concealed in a building to allow the dogs one successful detection. Andy Cole, the chief immigration officer, said: "If we did not do that the dogs would become bored."

The spaniels have proved more effective in discovering illegal immigrants than the latest technology, including heat-seeking equipment.

Three Romanian illegal immigrants were under arrest yesterday after being seen cutting their way out of a darkened lorry near Reading, Berkshire.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Convicted killer's case is re-opened

Cambridgeshire Police have reopened the case of Mark Sale, 27, a mentally subnormal man sentenced in 1985 to life imprisonment for a frenzied knife attack on Brian Meheew, an accountant.

The decision follows a 20-month inquiry into the case by a solicitor for Sale with the help of a private investigator and a journalist. The evidence implicates Christopher Beals, a friend of Sale and Meheew, who apparently boasted about the murder to friends. Beals hanged himself in 1991.

## Driving test rise

The cost of the basic driving test is to rise by £1 to £28.50 from May 29. The increase applies to tests on weekdays before 4.30pm. The daytime weekday motorcycle test fee also rises £1 to £36 but lorry and bus fees are unchanged.

## Murder plot

David Adams, cousin of the Sinn Féin president, was jailed for 25 years by Belfast Crown Court for conspiracy to murder Adams, 36, of Buncage Park, Belfast, was arrested in February last year with two rifles, a pistol and a bomb.

## Dealer tipped off

Phillip Mills, 22, a TSB cashier at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, who tipped off a drugs pusher that the police were examining his account, was jailed for 28 days by Aylesbury Crown Court for prejudicing a police inquiry.

## Ain't that a shame

Fats Domino, the 67-year-old American rock and roll artist, pulled out of last night's concert with Chuck Berry and Little Richard at Wembley Arena, London, after being taken to hospital in Sheffield with an infection.

## Harassment win

An estate agent who claimed her boss sexually harassed her won £800 compensation at a tribunal in Nottingham. Rosalyn Hall said Anthony Hancock, manager of Homefinders, stared at her cleavage and propositioned her.

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The incident follows a 3½-year search into the case's details by private investigators hired by the estate. The evidence gathered by Christopher Best, an attorney, and Michael J. Gorman, a retired police officer, is being reviewed about 100 miles from the scene by the FBI's Criminal Division in 1991.

## Driving test rise

The increase on weekdays. The daytime motorcycle test is \$30 but for the unanchored

## Murder plot

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... was taken  
... Congress  
... 10 men  
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With such a shame

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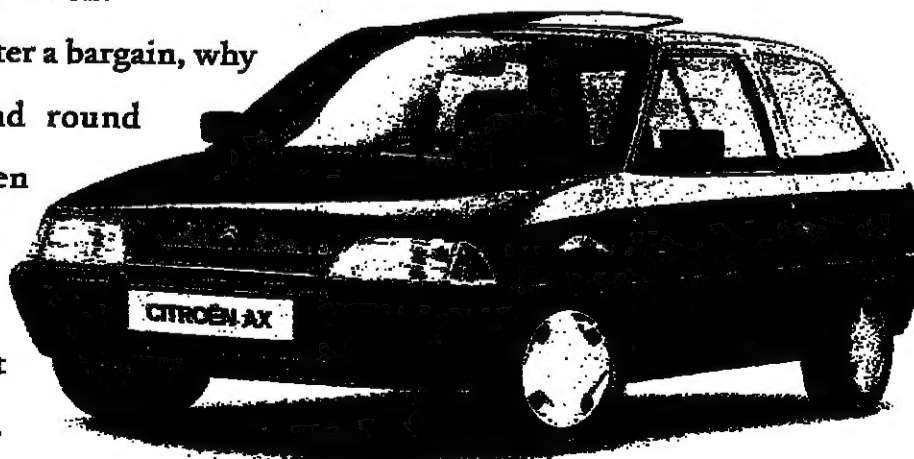
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Government promises it will seize the opportunity to restore confidence in Parliament

# The public expect us to get this right, says Hunt

By ALICE THOMSON, JAMES LANDALE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PROMPT government action on the Nolan committee's recommendations is essential to restoring the public's faith in Parliament, David Hunt, the Public Service Minister, told the Commons yesterday.

He said that the Government welcomed the broad thrust of the report and supported its aim of bringing greater clarity to guidelines on standards in public life.

But he warned MPs that the issues were complex and detailed. "We must ensure that the recommendations would indeed achieve their aims. The public expect us to get this right. It's too important to get it wrong."

"Some proposals are straightforward but others do need to be looked at very carefully to ensure that the improvements in the rules and procedures are carried forward in the most effective manner, with the least room for grey areas."

Right-wing Tories protested against making "panic responses" to the recent wave of sleaze allegations and insisted that the job could not be done overnight. Labour MPs complained that the Government

was prevaricating. Both sides of the House called for any material changes in MPs' terms to be decided through statute and not simply through a resolution of the House.

Opening the debate on the report, with Lord Nolan and several committee members

**It is self-evident that the integrity of ministers must not be in doubt**

watching from the public gallery, Mr Hunt said: "Wherever existing guidelines may have seemed open to varying interpretation, the report seeks to restore clarity of direction and above all we must ensure that objective is secured."

"The Government fully supports those aims and welcomes the broad thrust of the recommendations, so far as they affect the Government. It is ready to take early action."

But he promised that MPs would have the final say in any changes to their working practices.

Neither the Prime Minister nor Tony Blair, the Labour leader, was on the front bench but Tory backbenchers packed the House. The former Tory minister Tristan Garel-Jones was the first senior figure in the party to demand careful deliberation to avoid getting it wrong. Labour backbenchers jeered when he suggested the details should be referred to a senior committee of the House to restore confidence with "clarity and care".

Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton SW) gave warning against a "panic response" and called for any material changes in MPs' terms of office to be decided through "slow deliberation" by statute, which would "bite at the beginning of the next Parliament".

Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House, intervened to attack any attempt to slow the pace of reform, recalling that Mr Major had asked the committee to make its first report within six months because of the "urgency and



Garel-Jones: clarity and care needed



Taylor: pressed for swift action



Budgen: warned against panic

great weight of public concern". She said: "If it was important that Lord Nolan report in that timescale, surely it is important that the Commons should take action as quickly as possible."

Tony Wright (Lab, Cannock and Burnwood) said that to "delay and prevaricate" would merely compound the problem that the committee was set up to resolve.

Mr Hunt said the report had provided an excellent opportunity to restore public confidence in the system. "We should seize that opportunity and not seek to divert debate down a party political channel. In all cases the House will have the final say."

Lord Nolan looked surprised as MP after MP intervened to criticise the report. After repeated interruptions, Mr Hunt turned to the committee's recommendations on

questions of procedure for ministers. "It is self-evident that the integrity of ministers must not be in doubt — whether during their service to our nation or in what they do afterwards," he said.

"The Government therefore intends to implement Lord Nolan's recommendation that proposals by former ministers to take up appointments after they leave public office should be brought within the scope of

uphold standards in public life but that the Government would carefully consider his recommendations. "Lord Nolan's report finds that these standards remain high and the problem lies mainly in public perception rather than in the facts. I accept that. Also I accept the need to rebuild public confidence. We are therefore glad to accept Lord Nolan's recommendation, which I believe will reinforce confidence that British public life maintains the highest possible standards."

Mr Hunt said the Government would look "constructively" at the committee's recommendations on the Civil Service, and include them in consultation on a proposed new code for civil servants. "When we complete that process we will introduce the code. I am convinced by the Nolan committee's recommendation that we should not wait for legislation."

To Labour jeers, Mr Hunt said that Nolan had found no decline in standards in non-departmental public bodies, or quangos, and NHS bodies, where Mr Hunt said the "need for integrity is as great as it is for ministers and the Civil Service".

Continued on facing page

## Sleaze inquiries threaten MPs' holiday plans

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALLEGATIONS of Commons sleaze threaten to disrupt MPs' summer holiday plans as they struggle to clear a backlog of investigations into their colleagues' behaviour.

A stack of complaints against MPs has given two Commons investigative committees an unprecedented workload that could force them to continue their inquiries during the summer recess. Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, has already been asked to relax rules that bar one of the committees from sitting in the recess.

The pressure on the Privileges Committee and the Members' Interests Committee has increased because of the likelihood that the present system of investigating breaches of Commons rules will be disbanded later this year. They need to clear their caseload in readiness for some of their functions to be taken over by Lord Nolan's proposed independent ethics officer.

The Privileges Committee, which is likely to investigate the "cash-for-amendments" allegations against Sir Jerry Wiggin, is already heavily embroiled in an inquiry into accusations relating to Jonathan Aitken's stay at the Ritz hotel in Paris. It is in limbo until mid-June, the first opportunity it will have to interview Peter Preston, editor-in-chief of *The Guardian*, a key witness to the inquiry.

The Privileges Committee, the most senior Commons select committee, will then face calls from some MPs to interview Mr Aitken and Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of the Ritz, over the newspaper's faking of a letter purporting to be from Mr Aitken.

The committee's work will not be complete even then. Last year Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker,

ordered it to conduct an inquiry into rules governing payments to MPs.

The Members' Interests Committee also faces a hefty schedule, although it is already able to sit during the recess. Its present inquiry into allegations against the former industry minister Neil Hamilton broke up in disarray on Tuesday when Labour MPs walked out in protest at the way it was being conducted. Even if the inter-party wrangle over the inquiry is resolved, the committee has three further complaints to consider.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has been accused of failing to declare a visit to Washington on Concord, a trip which he claims was justified because he formed part of cross-party delegation representing Parliament. John Prescott, his deputy, has also to defend himself against an allegation that he failed to divulge a stay at Gleneagles paid for by the Conoco oil firm, although he argues that it was part of his parliamentary duties.

Teresa Gorman, the Tory MP for Billericay, must answer allegations, which she denies, that she tabled a private member's Bill restricting tenants' rights without declaring that she rented out property.

The Hamilton inquiry is being hampered by a long-running dispute between Tory and Labour MPs over the unusual appointment to the committee of Andrew Mitchell, a government whip. Tensions are expected to increase over the coming weeks and Mr Newton has been warned by Labour that, if the committee continues with Mr Mitchell as a member, Labour MPs may boycott any future investigations. Tory members have accused the Labour MPs of using delaying tactics to avoid an inquiry into Mr Blair's trip.

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons, questions to Home Office ministers were followed by the debate on the Nolan committee's report on standards in public life. In the Lords, peers debated the Licensing (Sunday Hours) Bill, committee stage, the Historic Monuments and

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**TOKEN EIGHTEEN**



Labour demands action now. Tories warn against panic measures

# Taylor calls for positive decisions before summer

Continued from facing page Service. He praised the often unpaid work of people on such bodies, although several Labour MPs intervened to say that they were mostly Tories.

"The report offers a conclusive rebuttal of the allegations that have been hurled, without any evidence and without any justification, at people who give their own time and energy to serve the nation in a public capacity," Mr Hunt replied.

The Nolan committee had endorsed the key principles underlying the present system of appointments to the bodies. The Government was acting to improve the transparency and independence of the appointments process.

The Government was also ready to tighten rules on the conduct of quangos members. "In this way we aim to show beyond any doubt at all that the rules are being followed."

In particular the Government accepted the need to review the legal framework governing propriety and accountability across a wide range of public bodies, and work on that was underway.

Mr Hunt concluded that the Government would give a detailed response before the summer recess to recommendations the committee had singled out for early action. "No individual must act in a way that calls their integrity into question... Integrity must remain our watchword. We all share responsibility in this House and elsewhere, for reinforcing public confidence in public service, and this Government will do everything necessary to ensure that the quality of the British public service remains and is clearly seen to be the best in the world."

For Labour, Mrs Taylor congratulated Lord Nolan and called for the swift implementation of his committee's recommendations. "The report does not contain all the an-

swers to the problems that face us but then it doesn't claim to. It is an important first step.

"I am not convinced myself that the recommendations from Nolan can be the last word on the issue. We will want to monitor developments and return to this matter when necessary."

She pointed to the different attitude Mr Hunt had expressed when he gave evidence to the committee in February and said the Government was still complacent about the public concerns. "I am very glad that today [Mr Hunt] has backed down in indicating that the Government will now accept the Nolan recommendations on ministers' employment."

She continued: "No one could, should and I hope would condone a blanket condemnation of all MPs. It's simply not the case that all MPs behave as badly as the few who have brought this House into disrepute. But to imply there is no real problem

**6 We know far more of what is going on than any bureaucrat brought in from outside 7**

does our reputation no good whatsoever."

Nigel Spearing (Lab, Newham S) intervened to say that too many MPs regarded a seat in the Commons "as a negotiable asset for private gain rather than a basis for a vocation."

Mrs Taylor accepted the committee's recommendations about quangos "would certainly make a difference". But she added: "Public concern is not just about who is on quangos but also about the



powers and spending ability that quangos have today.

She welcomed the committee's recommendation that MPs should disclose their earnings for providing parliamentary services in the Register of Members' Interests. She said it was "extremely important" work began on this within a few weeks.

"I want to see these new arrangements — or at least a framework for them — in place by the autumn. This House must make positive decisions before the summer recess and as early as possible."

Coming under constant pressure from Tory MPs to reveal her past involvement in parliamentary lobbying, Mrs Taylor accused them of trying to create "a smokescreen so that they can bury the Nolan report". She said that some MPs were under a misapprehension that the appointment of a new Commissioner for Standards would undermine the sovereignty of the House. "That is not the case."

Intervening, Anthony Steen (C, South Hants) won support from fellow Tories when he protested: "I deeply resent the inference in Nolan that all of us are crooks." He challenged Mrs Taylor on whether "all the problems you say exist"

would be solved by appointing "an ethics officer".

She replied that such a charge was a slur on Lord Nolan and his committee. "I don't think there is any suggestion in the report that suggests all Members of the House are crooks. And I think Members of this House resent Members on any side making such allegations."

The former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath attacked the Nolan committee as a threat to Parliament's sovereignty. "It is going to be a serious blow to democracy in this country," he said. "It is going to damage this House."

He said that any Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards would just be a "bureaucrat" brought in from outside who would be unable to know what really went on in Westminster. "We in this House know far more of what is going on with our fellow Members than any bureaucrat brought in from outside."

"What can this gentleman do? He can't come into the smoke room and say, 'By the way, have you heard so-and-so about so-and-so? Do you think I ought to look at that?' Of course not."

Sir Edward gave warning of the danger posed by the press to MPs' individual privacy if they had to declare all their earnings in the Register of Members' Interests.

Peter Shore, Labour MP

seems to lack a certain worldliness, of realising what actually goes on in this world of ours."

He attacked Mrs Taylor's demand for haste in implementing the Nolan report and said public unease over the behaviour of MPs was minute compared to unease over other aspects of our national life. He knew of only two incidents of improper activity by MPs in his 45 years in the House, which it was quite able to deal with itself. "We have now reached a stage where every man and woman in this House is an object of suspicion. I don't believe it is satisfactory."

Sir Edward gave warning of the danger posed by the press to MPs' individual privacy if they had to declare all their earnings in the Register of Members' Interests.

Peter Shore, Labour MP

and a member of the Nolan committee, underlined the importance of the recommendation that income from parliamentary related work should be divulged. "There is a real distinction between the receipt of £1,000 a year for small services and £10,000 for larger services." Although very few MPs fell below the standards expected by the public, there was a "need for greater clarity of our rules of personal conduct."

Tristan Garel-Jones, a consultant to BP, said that there were inevitable and valuable contacts between the company's public affairs team and MPs. The Commons should be careful in drawing up detailed guidance for MPs to ensure that such work could continue. "What I want is clear guidance. If the House gives me guidance which is not acceptable to me, then I will take the consequences of that and so will the House."

The former Tory minister Tom King spoke of the public having lost faith in MPs. "If this House doesn't command the confidence of the British people that is a very serious threat to our Parliamentary democracy."

Enoch Powell, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

# Shambolic debate proves urgency of speedy change

Parliamentary self-regulation is near to breakdown. That has been dramatised by the Wiggan affair and by yesterday's shambolic, self-absorbed and complacent Commons debate on the Nolan report. It is impossible any longer to have confidence in the regulatory procedures of the Commons. The privileges committee is unwieldy and has been undermined by party divisions, which have now paralysed the members' interests committee. Implementation of the streamlined regulatory machinery proposed by Nolan is urgent.

That presents the Speaker with an acute dilemma over Sir Jerry Wiggan's admitted use of a colleague's name to promote an amendment without his consent. While most MPs favour tough action against Sir Jerry, any inquiry could take until the end of the year, with no guarantee of agreement then. The alternative would be for Sir Jerry to make a grovelling apology in a personal Commons statement, but that might be seen as weakness. Both sides of the House have agreed to delay action until Sir Jerry returns to the country at the weekend. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, is in an unenviable position. Conscious of the recent damage done to Parliament's reputation, her frustration was apparent on Wednesday when she said: "It is about time that every member realised what is expected of us and behaved accordingly."

MPs were at their worst yesterday, quarrelsome, inward-looking and self-interested. Lord Nolan and his colleagues sitting in the gallery must have been appalled at how their report was misrepresented. Anthony Steen even claimed that the report said MPs were crooks, which is the opposite of what is said. Only Tom King, a member of the Nolan committee, pointed out how public confidence in MPs had fallen.

The Tory backlash against Nolan was startling in its extent and depth. No one could remember when Sir Edward Heath has been so loudly cheered by his own side. This reaction presents acute political problems for John Major. The main recommendations affecting parliament can now probably only

**RIDDELL ON POLITICS**

be carried with Labour and Liberal Democrat votes. So do not expect early action from the Government.

The Tory attacks against Nolan are not only self-interested but also misplaced — largely reflecting their own failure to remedy abuses. The Nolan report was a cautious exercise in reformism, stopping well short of the overwhelmingly puritan mood of the public. According to the recent MORI poll for the Rowntree Reform Trust's State of the Nation survey, three-quarters of the public believe MPs should be banned from receiving money for doing anything in Parliament for commercial interests, while nearly half think MPs should not be allowed to have any paid job outside Parliament. MPs would be full-time with no other paid work. That view is rejected by Nolan, who only proposes bans on links with multi-client consultancies. What infuriates Tory MPs is that they would have to declare earnings from consultancies related to being members, but this would not apply to independent business interests.

Claims by Tory MPs that the Nolan proposals would deter people from becoming MPs or seeking to be ministers, and would therefore dramatically change the Commons, are absurd. The real problem is the decreasing number of new MPs with non-political experience in business. The Nolan proposals would have no effect on MPs with genuine outside business interests.

Tory MPs may achieve some watering down of the Nolan proposals, but the political cost could be enormous. Labour now has a potentially big opportunity to portray the Tories as reluctant to improve standards in the Commons — provided it is willing to clean up its own relations with the unions. The Tory reaction and the debate will have further damaged the standing of the Commons and increased public contempt for the antics of MPs.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Senate's Whitewater vote casts pall over Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

GLOOM gripped the White House yesterday, following the Senate decision to reopen investigations into the Whitewater affair which has further threatened President Clinton's chances of re-election next year.

Although the President is more popular in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing and the signs are of increasing divisions within the Republican party, the shadow of Whitewater has left his aides far less optimistic for 1996.

Morale has not been helped by the Senate, which voted 96 votes to three to create a Watergate-style panel extending televised Whitewater investigations from July until February next year, just three weeks before the important New Hampshire primary.

"Some questions raised by Whitewater go to the heart of our democratic system," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, the aggressive New York Republican who will chair the hearings. "We must ascertain

whether purely private interests have been placed above the public trust."

The White House said the President and Hillary Clinton were confident that a review of the facts would "continue to show the amorphous and ever-shifting Whitewater charges are without merit". Indeed, a "smoking gun",



Clinton: election chances under renewed threat

making a specific link of illegality between Whitewater and the President or his wife, has yet to be found. But the trail of evidence which appears to have engulfed the Clintons' closest associates, and which is to be studied by the new committee, could prove a political time bomb.

The investigation will start with the death of Vincent Foster, the former White House deputy counsel and the Clintons' personal lawyer, which although officially ruled a suicide, has raised unanswered questions pointing to murder. Mr D'Amato and his colleagues are to examine whether Whitewater papers removed from Mr Foster's office were destroyed or mishandled after his death. They were taken by Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel who has since resigned, Patsy Thomasson, a Clinton supporter in Arkansas, and Margaret Williams, the President's chief of staff.

Whether administration of-

ficials interfered with an inquiry by government bankruptcy officials into Madison Guaranty, the failed savings and loan institution owned by James McDougal, will also be investigated. Mr McDougal was the Clintons' partner in their plan to develop holiday homes in a northern Arkansas tract known as Whitewater. Finally, the panel will concentrate on events leading up to Mr Clinton's campaign for the Arkansas governorship in 1990, and whether Bruce Lindsey, a confidant of the President, withdrew money from a rural bank without telling the Internal Revenue Service.

Last summer's Whitewater hearings were run by Mr Clinton's fellow Democrats. They led to the resignations of Roger Altman, the Deputy Treasury Secretary, and Jean Hanson, the general counsel, over allegations they had not been forthright with Congress. The new hearings run by the Republicans will be much more rigorous.



A woman showing symptoms of the lethal Ebola fever lies in Kikwit hospital in Zaire, yesterday, awaiting test results. Experts have so far identified 114 cases of Ebola virus infection in southwestern

Zaire and 79 people have died, the World Health Organisation said (Our Foreign Staff writes). An outbreak of Ebola in the Ivory Coast last year may have been prevented by a French

medical team which says a strain of the virus that infected a zoologist doing research into chimpanzees was different from any other strain identified. It did not spread and the patient recovered.

## More arrests as police foil new cult bomb plot

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

POLICE yesterday arrested more key members of Aum Shinrikyo, the religious cult accused of carrying out the sarin gas attack on Tokyo's subway system, and said they had foiled another terrorist plot by some cult members.

They also said they had found a big cache of nerve gas ingredients in a secret underground chamber at the cult's headquarters, according to the *Asahi Shimbun*. The 275 drums of chemicals suggest that the cult planned to produce the gas on a huge scale.

Takeshi Matsumoto, 29, was arrested with another cult member, Mr Matsumoto, who is not officially a suspect in the gas attack, was wanted in connection with the kidnapping in February and suspected murder of a cult member's brother, and is regarded as extremely dangerous. Alone among cult members, he featured on "wanted" posters after the subway attack. He had undergone plastic surgery around his eyes and an operation to remove the skin from his fingertips.

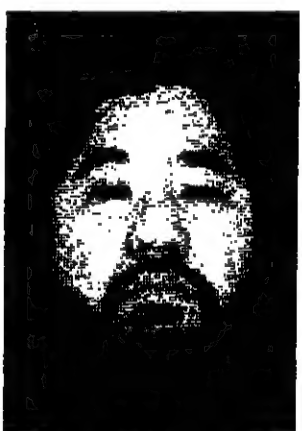
Yesterday's arrests bring to 28 the number of cult members held this week. Among them is the man who police believe led the team which carried out the subway attack. Yoshihiro Inoue, the cult's "intelligence chief", had in his possession the ingredients to make a powerful bomb, and was planning a terrorist attack to prevent police moving in on Shoko Asahara, the cult leader, police said.

However, the half-blind, 40-year-old cult leader has steadfastly denied any involvement

in the attack. At first he claimed that nobody with eyesight as bad as his could possibly have orchestrated the subway attack. Police interrogators said that Mr Asahara had since alternated between maintaining complete silence and "making small talk" during questioning.

Mr Asahara yesterday pursued a different tack by trying to distance himself from his followers, according to Japanese media reports. He asked the police officer interrogating him how many subordinates he had. When the officer replied that he supervised eight people, Mr Asahara said: "I have so many followers, I don't know what they have done."

Investigators fear it may be difficult to link Mr Asahara directly to the attack and some top cult officials insist that he is "only a symbolic figure" and not involved in daily cult affairs.



Asahara: distancing himself from followers

## Arabs incensed by US land veto

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARAB fury against the United States erupted yesterday and Israeli officials said relations with the Arab world had sunk to their lowest since the 1980s after Washington used its veto to block a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israel to rescind plans to seize 133 acres of annexed east Jerusalem.

The strength of feeling on the issue, likely to be voiced in a limited Arab summit in Morocco this month, put paid to Israeli hopes of building on recent peace deals with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan to normalise ties with other Arab states. In Jordan, the Government of King Hussein was coming under increasing parliamentary pressure to withdraw its new ambassador from Tel Aviv and freeze the treaty signed last October.

Leaders of militant Muslim groups raised the prospect of renewed violence against American targets after Washington used its veto for the first time in five years and reinforced an already deep-rooted conviction that the UN is prepared to take punitive action against Arab states such as Iraq and Libya while doing nothing to prevent Israel breaking international law.

"America heads those countries who are hostile to Muslims and the oppressed and,

by its veto, it is challenging the feelings of one billion Muslims and it is pushing them to move to stop this unjust policy," Sheikh Nafex Assam, of the Islamic Jihad group, said in Gaza.

The PLO said that the move had caused the Palestinians to "lose faith in the United States at a time when the peace process was already close to collapse". Marwan Kanafani, chief spokesman for Yasser Arafat, said: "The US has lost its status as an honest broker. It is like having a third man in the ring rooting for one of the fighters."

Israel Radio reported that the news of the American veto had brought about the failure of a multilateral session of the peace negotiations which was under way in Switzerland. Faisal Hussein, chief PLO delegate at the stormy meeting in Montreux, said: "This American position... is hurting deeply the whole peace process."

Jordan told the United States Ambassador in Amman that the American move, largely prompted by domestic American politics, had been both "immoral and hypocritical". Israel, however, tried to shrug off the matter. Speaking in Paris, Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, said dismissively: "It is a lot of noise about a little story."

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# Renegades flout authority of law in new Wild West

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN ROUNDUP, MONTANA

THE lawless "Wild West" is making a comeback in the vast and empty state of Montana. Three miles up a dirt track that winds into the Bull Mountains behind this remote town of 2,000 inhabitants, three heavily-armed fugitives have been holed up for weeks in a log house surrounded by an electric fence and signs warning that attacks on this "sovereign" property will be forcibly resisted. They are brazenly defying the out-gunned forces of law and order to come and arrest them.

Such defiance is spreading like brushfire across a state where rugged individualism is still revered and hatred of government is as intense as anywhere in America.

In Jordan, a town 150 miles to the north-east, the sheriff and county prosecutor quickly formed an 85-strong citizens' posse last year after three dozen men who refused to recognise any form of government occupied the courthouse and offered \$1 million bounties for the arrest of local officials. They said they would "try" the officials for treason and hang them if found guilty.

In Darby, near the Idaho border, a paramilitary group leader named Calvin Greenup has for months staved off the seizure of his ranch in lieu of unpaid taxes, and his arrest on charges of conspiring against government officials, by threatening to "go down shooting". When a National Guard helicopter circled his 250 acres in February, 20 armed associates arrived within 30 minutes to defend them.

In the Swann Valley, near the Canadian border, Gordon Selner remains free a year after wounding a police officer because the authorities fear a shootout if they storm his cabin. "This is absolute lawlessness," says Ken Toole, director of Montana's Human

Rights Network which monitors this fast-spreading phenomenon. "There are groups of armed men facing down local law enforcement." Roundup's three fugitives — Rodney Skurdal, LeRoy Schweitzer and Daniel Petersen — belong to the Freeman, the political wing of Montana's flourishing militia movement that boasts up to 500 members. The Freeman reject all government, refuse to pay taxes, drive cars without licence plates and decline even to use postcodes. They proclaim their land "sovereign territory", print their own money orders and have moved to establish their own common-law judicial system. They are mostly white males

Defiance has spread like a brushfire and hatred of government is intense

who consider Jews satanic, blacks "mud people", and themselves as America's only legitimate settlers. Mr Skurdal and his colleagues have issued a "citizens declaration of war" against government officials, and are wanted on an array of charges ranging from fomenting violence to tax evasion. On paper, though not in practice, the Internal Revenue Service seized the house in which they are barricaded in 1993.

From his courthouse office on Roundup's Main Street John Bohlman, the Musselshell County prosecutor, presses for their arrest but Paul Smith, sheriff, is desperate to avoid an armed confron-

tation. He has just four deputies. The FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies are equally reluctant to storm the building, and with good reason. They have been scalded by the denunciations of their 1993 assault on the Branch Davidians' Waco compound that left 80 dead, and of their 1992 attack on Randy Weaver's Idaho log cabin during which the white separatist's wife and son were killed. Those incidents led indirectly to the Oklahoma City bombing and greatly boosted a militia movement that claims the Government wants to repress the people.

Mr Bohlman's other problem is public sentiment. "A lot of people in this community say you should leave these guys alone so long as they don't hurt people," he says. Some sympathisers even supply the fugitives with food.

Despite Ross Perot's 19 million protest votes in 1992, the electorate's resounding rejection of government in November's congressional elections and a recent Gallup poll showing 39 per cent of Americans feel the Government poses an "immediate threat to their rights and freedoms", politicians 2,000 miles away in Washington still fail fully to grasp the disenchantment in these hinterlands.

A local radio station attacks "Clinton's communists". People bitterly resent new restrictions on the use of federal lands, gun controls and the Government's reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone national park despite vehement local protest.

Mr Bohlman feels sufficiently threatened to occasionally wear a bulletproof vest. He fears anarchy if the law is not enforced, and has now written in desperation to President Clinton. "It's not Mogadishu," he says, but "we need help."



Police and paramedics try in vain to save the wounded driver near the crashed tank. He was shot after its hatch was opened with bolt cutters

## US police kill driver after tank rampage

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A MAN who stole a 63-ton tank and left a trail of havoc after a half-hour rampage, was shot dead by police in San Diego.

Shawn Nelson, long-haired and in his thirties, flattened parked cars and mowed down telegraph poles as he pursued an unexplained grudge. The 20-mile swath of destruction was halted when the M-60 tank hit a three-foot concrete crash barrier on a six-lane motorway. Police tore open its hatch with bolt cutters and shot the driver in the neck as he tried to restart the disabled vehicle, which had lost its tracks.

Bystanders, many contemplating wrecked property and scarcely-believable insurance claims, were left stunned and frightened. One woman who jumped from her van seconds

before the tank crushed it told a television crew she had seen the driver's face and was convinced he meant to kill her. Mr Nelson, described as Caucasian, may have gained access to the National Guard armoury in San Diego's Linda Vista district by passing himself off as a contractor, according to a National Guard spokesman in California.

After hijacking the tank, Mr Nelson burst through a gate in the armoury's perimeter fence. He was chased at up to 30 miles an hour by police helicopters and dozens of patrol cars, sometimes on side streets, sometimes on motorways, destroying about 25 cars, sending water jets from ruptured fire hydrants high into the air, and cutting power supplies.



Flat out: A shocked owner surveys his vehicle which was destroyed in San Diego

## Senator rejects 'sexy film' charge

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PHIL GRAMM has been wooing the family-values vote in his quest for the Republican presidential nomination, so he was understandably outraged yesterday by charges that he invested in the production of a sexy film 20 years ago.

The film, *Beauty Queens*, was described by its producer as a "sexualization of beauty contests". It would be rated "R" under the American system, meaning those under 17 could be admitted only with an adult. But it was never

made and Senator Gramm lost his \$7,500 (\$4,800) investment. Senator Gramm acknowledged being involved, but disputed an account given by George Catton, his former brother-in-law, as "an old family vendetta". Mr Catton told the magazine *New Republic* that Mr Gramm's interest was inspired by watching a soft-porn film called *Truck Stop Women* at Mr Catton's home. "Totally false," Mr Gramm said. "I never saw any movie." Mr Catton also said

Mr Gramm was offered his money back after *Beauty Queens* fell through, but invested it instead in a spoof about Richard Nixon. Mr Gramm said he was never given the chance to retrieve his money.

The accusation appeared just as Mr Gramm had appeared with leaders of the Christian Coalition to promote their new *Contract with the American Family*, calling for legislation that, among other things, would restrict pornog-

raphy on the Internet and cable television.

Mr Gramm has tried to position himself as the Republican candidate most closely allied to religious groups and other conservatives who criticise Hollywood for promoting sex and violence. He said he was confident that voters would accept his account rather than his former brother-in-law's. Still, he took the precaution of calling key donors and supporters to reassure them.

## HIV troops face army dismissal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN WHAT was viewed as a deliberate assault on homosexuality and is likely to provoke fierce controversy, radical Republicans introduced a Bill yesterday to discharge from the American armed services more than 1,200 people who have tested positive for the HIV virus that causes Aids.

The Pentagon bans entry to anyone with the HIV virus, but infected troops have been allowed to remain in service as long as they are physically able. However, Robert Dornan, the Californian congressman running for the Republican presidential nomination, introduced legislation that would require an honourable

discharge within six months of an HIV-positive diagnosis. He argued that the Pentagon rules, restricting deployment overseas for such soldiers, undermined military readiness. At a time when numbers were being cut, he said, the Defence Department should retain only those capable of travelling worldwide.

"I do not see it as a homosexuality issue," he said, "I see it as a readiness issue... right now they cannot leave California or Virginia."

The measure brought swift reaction from gay rights activists, who said it was deliberately divisive and intended to expel qualified and experienced troops who

would be costly to replace. Although a Democratic Congress rebuffed a similar Bill by Mr Dornan last year, including provision banning military hospitals overseas from performing abortions, the present legislation is expected to sail through the House National Security Committee and perhaps the full House of Representatives. As yet, there is no companion Bill in the Senate.

"Everything is different this year," Mr Dornan said. His Democratic committee colleague, Ronald Dellums, who fiercely opposes the legislation, also conceded that preventing its passage would involve a tough battle.



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# President ushers in relaxed era of Elysée à l'Américaine

BY CHARLES BREMNER



Claude Chirac prefers wearing jeans to suits

STARTING work in his new office yesterday, President Chirac sat down at the grand oak desk that belonged to General de Gaulle. His decision to bring the desk out of storage symbolised his devotion to the legacy of the national saviour and scourge of the Anglo-Saxons.

However, the gesture, with its echoes of the haughty old statesman, is misleading as a symbol of the style of the new presidency as the Chirac family move into the Elysée Palace. Rather than returning to the grand ways of the old general, M Chirac and his team are opening a simplified administration with an informality that some are even calling American.

The comparison with the White House is not surprising, given that M Chirac, 62, is the most pro-American president to govern modern France. Reinforcing this feeling is his choice of Dominique de Villepin, a 41-year-old diplomat with long experience in Washington, as his Chief of Staff. Also, heading his communications office is his daughter Claude. Aged 32, Mme Chirac prefers jeans to the chic suits favoured by M Mitterrand's female staff.

Though M Chirac rails, like a good Gaullist, against the "arrogance" of US policy, especially in trade, his admiration for "les States" goes back to 1953, when as a student he attended a Harvard summer school. Alain Juppé, the English-speaking new Prime Minister, reports M Chirac's enthusiasm for dashing off into the American heartland incoherent during working trips there. Though M Mitterrand does not speak a foreign language.

**Jacques Chirac has taken de Gaulle's grand oak desk out of storage but has begun his presidency with humility, attempting to avoid the pomp and grandeur of his most recent predecessors**

France has had English-speaking presidents before, most recently Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in the 1970s. M Chirac is the first to speak with an American accent.

But it is more in management style than culture that the Chirac presidency may seem American. The new leader is making do with a near skeleton staff of 15 advisers, a fraction of the battalion of courtiers that surrounded M Mitterrand. In contrast with the haughty M Giscard and the imperial Socialist President, M Chirac is a relaxed and convivial boss who uses Chris-

tian names and applies the chummy "tu" rather than the formal "vous" to all around him. Now that Jacques is Monsieur le Président, friends and advisers are wondering whether they should revert to "vous" with him. He would never, however, respond as did M Mitterrand when an old colleague put the question to him. "On se tutoie?" (Shall we use "tu"?) "Si vous voulez," came the withering put-down.

M Chirac is working hard on the symbols of the new, scaled-down, "people's presidency". He has, for example, been driving round in a

rickety old Citroën CX, stopping at red lights. However, the traditions of French grandeur have a habit of prevailing over such attempts at humility, as both the Giscard and Mitterrand terms showed.

For a start, Jacques and Bernadette may be more vulnerable to presidential isolation because they have moved into the palace, unlike all their predecessors since de Gaulle. Messrs Pompidou, Giscard and Mitterrand preferred to sleep at their private homes, or elsewhere, using the palace for work and state socialising. Most of the Elysée household remains unchanged, unlike the White House, where even the chef de cuisine is a personal appointment. M Mitterrand's chief cook was worrying on the radio about whether he would please the rugged tastes of the new boss, who has a famous liking for peasant stews, pizza and Corona beer.

## NEW LINE-UP IN CABINET

Prime Minister: Alain Juppé  
Foreign: Hervé de Charette  
Defence: Charles Millon  
Finance: Alain Madelin  
Justice: Jacques Toubon  
Interior: Jean-Louis Debré  
Agriculture: Philippe Vasseur  
Industry: Yves Galland  
Labour: Jacques Barrot  
Culture: Philippe Douste-Blazy

Civil Service: Jean Puech  
Health: Elisabeth Hubert  
Education: François Bayrou  
Transport: Bernard Pons  
Technology: François Fillon  
Environment: Corinne Lepage  
Youth and Sports: Guy Drut  
Tourism: Françoise de Panafieu

## Chirac gives key Cabinet posts to pro-Europeans

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC completed his ascent to power yesterday by appointing a new Government with pro-European in key posts and including Alain Madelin, an outspoken apostle of free trade, as chief of a powerful new Finance Ministry.

The appointment of M Madelin, 49, a centre-right politician who has only recently revised heretical monetary views, was a strong signal of M Chirac's determination to shake up the country's economic management. In 1992 M Madelin denounced the close franc-mark link as "untenable", though he now says things have changed. He said last night that his priority would be the "struggle against the public deficits and waste of public money".

However, soothing signals were sent to the markets and Germany by the appointment as Foreign Minister of Hervé de Charette, 56, a pro-European technocrat turned politician. Housing Minister in the outgoing Government, M de Charette is expected to come under close supervision from Alain Juppé, the new Prime Minister, whose own appoint-

ment is the strongest evidence of M Chirac's commitment to European union.

After an unspectacular political career, M de Charette came into his own as an outspoken figure in the campaign. He sided with M Chirac, subjecting Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, to scathing public criticism.

Further signs of continuity came from the choice of Dominique de Villepin, 41, a career diplomat who ran M Juppé's office at the Foreign Ministry, as Secretary-General of the presidency. The post, equivalent to White House chief of staff, makes M de Villepin the key intermediary between M Chirac and the Government.

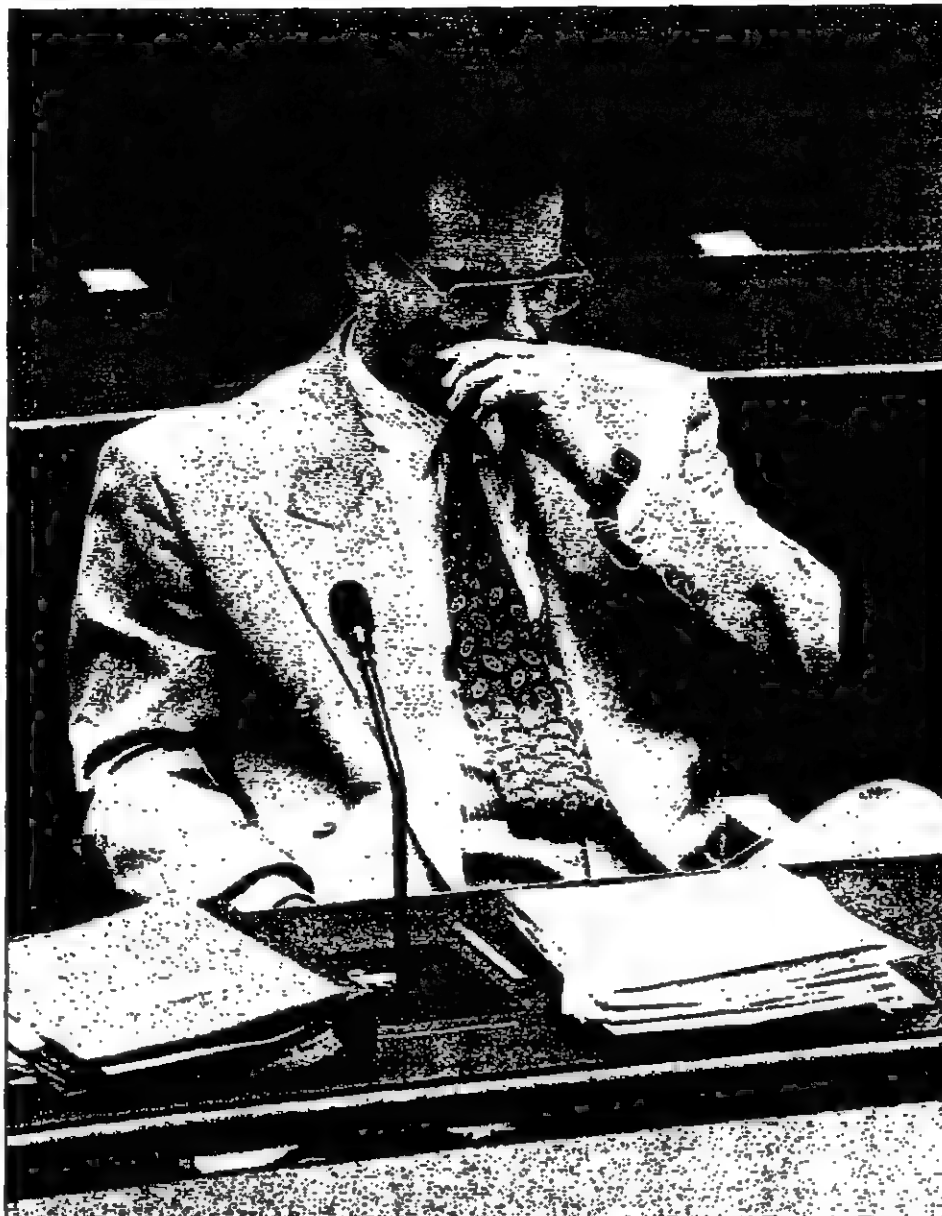
In keeping with M Chirac's pledge of renewal, only nine figures from the outgoing team of M Balladur appear in the new, enlarged government of 42 portfolios. M Balladur, defeated by M Chirac after leading a rebellion against him, handed over to M Juppé yesterday in a sour ceremony at the Prime Minister's mansion.

The new line-up, which includes a record 12 women, is an equal balance of Gaullists,

almost all Chirac loyalists, and figures from the centre-right UDF group, also mostly his supporters. Jacques Toubon, 53, a Chirac Gaullist loyalist and outgoing Culture Minister, was given the Justice Ministry, a highly sensitive post in the climate of corruption inquiries. M Madelin's own Republican Party is one of several groups now under investigation for sleaze.

The most senior woman minister is Elisabeth Hubert, a 39-year-old doctor and Gaullist who is making her entry to government in charge of health. A new ministry for "solidarity between the generations" was given to Collette Cocchi, 52, a Gaullist. Eight of the 12 women are junior ministers.

The average age has dropped to 51, and one member, François Baroin, the government spokesman, is only 29. Only two members of the new Government, apart from M Juppé and M Chirac himself, are products of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the chief nursery for the high technocrats repeatedly denounced by M Chirac.



Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, addressing parliament in Bonn yesterday before announcing that he is to resign as Free Democrat leader

## Kinkel to resign as party leader

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BATTERED by a dozen election defeats, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that he would resign as chairman of the small Free Democratic Party. The move threw a pall of uncertainty over the Government of Helmut Kohl, which is dependent on Free Democrat support.

Herr Kinkel said he would not resign as Foreign Minister: "I will concentrate my strengths on the jobs of Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor." His advisers say that the minister will now have more time to work on making a success of the 1996 Maastricht follow-up conference.

For almost three years, Herr Kinkel has been stretched between two demanding jobs. As chairman of the Free Democrats, he has had to keep the party afloat at a time when its vaguely liberal policies seemed increasingly irrelevant to German voters. The party failed repeatedly to win the necessary 5 per cent of the vote in regional and European elections and plunged out of city councils and state parliaments. In elections last weekend, it dropped out of two more regional parliaments.

As Foreign Minister, Herr Kinkel has found himself jumping into aircraft several times a week. Germany's real foreign policy was increasingly made by the Chancellor and his associates.

Warplane delays: New delays have hit the four-nation Eurofighter project because of uproar in the German parliament about soaring development costs. Roger Freeman, Britain's Defence Procurement Minister, travelled to Bonn last night for a meeting that was supposed to end with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Germans. But the signing will have to wait at least until after the German parliament takes a fresh look at the Eurofighter figures on May 31.

sterling and the Italian lira. There was little doubt, however, that the President, while pledging his loyalty to union, would explain to the Chancellor that he needed some economic breathing space in his war against unemployment.

M Chirac's team would dearly like to see a fall in the high German interest rates which, through their link to the franc, have stifled French economic revival. The French are, however, aware that the rates are not in the Chancellor's gift, but that of the independent Bundesbank.

Leading article, page 17

## Kohl shares wary nuptial feast with new partner

BY CHARLES BREMNER

AN Alsatian restaurant was the setting last night for President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to seal the latest nuptials of the "Franco-German couple", a serial marriage whose future has become less certain with the election of the Gaullist.

With the franc under pressure and anxiety in Bonn, M Chirac fixed the rendezvous with the German leader in Strasbourg a day after taking office to demonstrate his dedication to the close alliance at the heart of Europe for the past three decades.

However, dining at "Chez Yvonne", Herr Kohl was eager to gauge the degree of his new partner's devotion to pursuing union and the monetary wedlock that goes with it.

The largely pro-European new Cabinet spent the day yesterday insisting that nothing would obstruct M Chirac's commitment to pursuing the special relationship, as symbolised by the fine rapport between President Mitterrand and Herr Kohl and the earlier matches, between de Gaulle and Adenauer and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt. "Our stance on Europe will strongly depend on

mutual Franco-German decision-making, on harmony between us," said Hervé de Charette, the new, staunchly pro-European Foreign Minister.

Jean-Jacques de Peretti, an architect of M Chirac's economic programme and the new Overseas Territories Minister, said M Chirac had been falsely judged on his attitude. "He is without doubt the man most focused on the strong franc," M de Peretti said. M Chirac already knows "my dear friend Helmut" and the two men have, on the face of it, much in common. The President is a back-slapping conser-

vative who shares the Chancellor's appetite for beer and hearty country cuisine.

German worries have been aroused, however, by M Chirac's ambiguous stance throughout his election campaign in which he promised to shift economic priorities to an all-out drive to create jobs. Within hours of taking office, the Elysée Palace had to extinguish a flare-up on the financial markets. This was triggered by reports, fiercely denied, that M Chirac could press Herr Kohl to scrap the European Monetary System and launch a looser version that would take in

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bank gang in Manila shoot-out

Manila: Philippine police, under public pressure to curb a wave of bank raids, shot dead 11 suspected robbers in a gun battle here with one of the country's biggest gangs.

The gang leader and three others escaped. They are blamed for a \$2 million (£1.25 million) cash robbery near the capital's airport on May 3, as well as two other banks and a supermarket. Twenty-one gang members have been shot in seven weeks. (Reuters)

### Rebels' amnesty

Port Moresby: The Papua New Guinea Government announced an amnesty for rebels in Bougainville in an effort to end the six-year long secessionist struggle in the mineral-rich island province. (AFP)

### Karachi deaths

Karachi: At least three people were killed and 23 wounded when Pakistani police and paramilitary rangers battled gunmen in the heart of Karachi. One ranger and two civilians died. (Reuters)

### 'I killed Somoza'

Buenos Aires: Gorriaran Merlo, a former guerrilla still in hiding, confessed in a television interview to the assassination of former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1980. (AFP)

### Laos ban lifted

Bangkok: The United States has decided to lift a ban on aid to Laos imposed when it became communist in 1975. The decision does not guarantee new funding for Laos, a statement said. (Reuters)

### Toast of jams

Cahors: Gourmets in France's southwest have discovered a new, non-alcoholic jam made from one of their regional wines, Cahors, suitable for breakfast or in sauces to accompany meat. (AFP)

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# Belgrade offered sanctions deal to recognise Bosnia

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

UNITED NATIONS peacekeepers say a diplomatic breakthrough over Bosnia-Herzegovina hinted at by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, may aggravate the intensifying warfare in the country.

Mr Hurd said in Washington on Wednesday that he hopes that President Milosevic of Serbia would recognise Bosnia's international borders had been rekindled. It appears that Western leaders will allow Mr Milosevic to recognise the country without acknowledging the legitimacy of the Sarajevo Government.

The comments came after America offered Serbia relief from UN sanctions in return for recognising Bosnia's borders. Britain, France, Russia and Germany, however, believe recognition would be an important step towards reducing tension because it would also allow UN monitors along Serbia's borders to cut off trade to the Bosnian Serbs. However, Mr Milosevic has rejected a similar proposal in the past.

The Foreign Secretary also said after meeting Al Gore, the American Vice-President, and Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, that Britain has no immediate plans to withdraw its peacekeeping troops, but the case for keeping them in Bosnia may no longer be valid if the fighting continues to intensify.

Mr Hurd's raising of a question mark over Britain's commitment coincides with a decision by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, to prepare a report for the Security Council on redeploying and reducing the 22,000 troops in the UN Protection Force assigned to the former Yugoslav republics. Mr Hurd endorsed the move. The Foreign Secretary has also backed the Clinton Administration's efforts to counter proposals by Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, for Washington unilaterally to lift the embargo on sending arms to the Muslim-led Government.

The moves in Washington came as heavy fighting spread to several areas. The intense

mortar, tank and artillery exchanges in Sarajevo over the past few days subsided yesterday, but municipal workers began erecting shields and closing roads because of sniper attacks. One man was killed and another wounded by Serb snipers, while a shell in a marketplace near the United Nations headquarters killed one and wounded six.

In the northeast of Bosnia, the Croat-held Orasje pocket was considerably quieter after more than a week of Serb attacks. On Wednesday, UN officers reported about 5,000 shells had fallen in the area, one of the heaviest barrages of the entire war. Across the country, in Bihać, UN officials reported thousands of Serbs had fled a Bosnian Government push out of the "safe area".

The fighting, coupled with the apparent collapse of Nato's heavy weapons bans around Sarajevo and Gorazde and the paralysis of the UN peace-keeping force, has rekindled pressure on diplomats to produce an initiative. Peace talks have been stalled since the five-nation Contact Group's "take-it-or-leave-it" proposal almost a year ago, which the Serbs refused to sign.

Diplomats believe that by getting Mr Milosevic to join the rest of the world in affirming Bosnia's interna-

tional borders, they can further isolate the Bosnian Serb leadership. That, they believe, would make the separatists more conciliatory at the negotiating table.

"It's a further sign of a split in the Serbs and it does mean that there will be additional pressure on them to settle," Lord Owen, the EU peace negotiator, told BBC radio yesterday. "We've got to get the Bosnian Serbs in a frame of mind in which they actually will negotiate."

However, some peacekeepers, even in their current predicament, believe that the latest bid might push the conflict closer to the abyss rather than towards resolution. Past experience lends credence to those concerns. "I don't see it helping the peace process in any way," one UN official said. "It will only push the Bosnian Serbs further into the corner."

A former British peacekeeper said that such a move encourages the Bosnian Serbs to play to their strengths — to tighten their sieges of Sarajevo and other towns, to strike back at the government army and to make life impossible for peacekeepers. "When they [the Serbs] are put under diplomatic pressure they become more hard line," the officer said. "Under military pressure they become a lot easier to deal with, but there isn't the political will in Western capitals to do it."

Without that will, many UN officials and observers have concluded, the most promising chance to bring an end to the war would be to reverse diplomatic course and encourage the division of Bosnia.

A withdrawal of peacekeepers would have grave consequences. Simply getting out could be difficult and in addition to an increase in fighting on the ground there would be an immense risk of the conflict spreading to Kosovo and Macedonia.

Travel alarm: The State Department in Washington has warned Americans to avoid travel to Croatia and Bosnia and urged those there to leave. (Reuters)



Milosevic offered deal to relieve sanctions



The Pope: "I renew before Christ the offer of my availability to serve the Church"

## Pope promises flock he will stay at his post

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope celebrated his 75th birthday yesterday after strongly denying speculation that he intended to retire.

The Polish pontiff said Mass in his private chapel at dawn as usual, had lunch with six cardinals and met a group of Indian bishops who sang "Happy birthday" in English.

During his weekly general audience in St Peter's Square, he told thousands of pilgrims: "I renew before Christ the offer of my availability to serve the Church as long as he will want, abandoning myself totally to his will. I leave to him the decision on how and when he will want to remove me from this service."

Vatican watchers had suggested that the Pope might step down because, under canon law, bishops are "invited" to hand in their resignations to the Pope when they reach the age of 75. He decides whether they are fit to

carry on in their dioceses. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome, but also "the Vicar of Christ on Earth", and as such answerable only to his superior, according to Catholic doctrine.

John Paul has long made it clear that he hopes to lead the Church into the second millennium. There was concern about his health last year after he underwent an operation for a broken leg. His recovery was slower than expected, forcing him to walk with a stick and cancel a visit to the United States. It was the fifth operation he had undergone since his election in 1978.

This year, however, he resumed his worldwide travels, visiting Asia and Australia. On Saturday he embarks on a three-day visit to the Czech Republic and, briefly, Poland. In September he is to visit five African countries and in October makes the delayed trip to the United States.

## Ex-minister faces fraud trial in Italy

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN ROME

THE Italian Senate cleared the way yesterday for prosecutors to charge Gianni De Michelis, the former Foreign Minister, with embezzlement while in office.

The flamboyant former socialist minister is suspected of having siphoned off more than £1.6 million of foreign ministry funds for his own use while he was minister from 1989 to 1992.

Investigators are also seeking to charge Giuseppe Baldacci, a former aide. A high-profile minister in Giulio Andreotti's Cabinet, Signor De Michelis, 54, has already been implicated in a number of corruption investigations, but could not be charged for offences allegedly committed while in office without the Senate lifting his ministerial immunity.

A Senate commission established to examine the accusations and the former minister's immunity, agreed

yesterday that he had a case to answer. Signor De Michelis had "squandered public money for his personal ends, using ministry funds for meals, travel, night clubs that he frequented assiduously, and bouquets of flowers", according to Filiberto Scalone, the commission's rapporteur.

Some of the missing funds — £5 million — went directly to his personal bank account from his office petty cash, Signor Scalone said.

In another development, France's highest court, the Court of Cassation, approved the extradition of Roberto Cappelli, 39, and Paolo Di Marzo, 34. They have been sentenced in Italy to life and 18 years' imprisonment respectively for Red Brigades terrorist acts in the early 1980s. They were arrested in France last August after Italy requested their extradition, but freed on appeal last October while their case was heard. (AFP)

## Cypriots bounce 250 cheques an hour

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

BOUNCING cheques have become so commonplace in Cyprus that £35 million worth flooded the market last year, according to the authorities, who say the problem is getting worse and are pushing for tougher penalties.

An astonishing 250,000 rubber cheques, many bouncing more than once, were passed in 1994 as the banks in the republic, which has a population of just under 600,000, returned on average 250 every hour they were open.

Parliament, concerned that a cheque now represents a promise rather than a payment, is considering a government proposal to jail offenders for two years instead of six months, the current but rarely-enforced penalty.

Kiki Kazamias, a Communist MP, told parliament the problem involved "businessmen of all kinds from the smallest to the biggest", but complained that only the former were hauled before the courts while "others hide in their luxury cars or swimming pools and do not face legal action".

Economists say the phenomenon does not reflect underlying problems with the economy, which is booming. "It's a cultural thing," said a senior Central Bank official. "Most of these people who write dud cheques do have money in the bank — it's just a way of extending their credit."

Only 15 cases were tried last year. Recipients of dud cheques are loath to complain for fear of losing future business and only one in 100 goes to the police, who usually persuade the drawer to pay up before the dispute reaches court. Unfortunately, this means the police are acting as "debt collectors" for businessmen, claimed Mr Kazamias. He said the police last year managed to collect £1.8 million, at a cost of £280,000.

Nicosia: All peanuts are to be withdrawn here for checks after cancer-causing toxins were found in some samples. (AFP)

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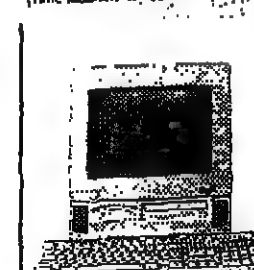
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## Rage against the dyeing of the hair

Why do women's rows always descend to physical insults?

A woman's place is in a rage. Strangely stimulated, I find myself pacing the floor, eyes aglitter, spoiling for a fight. Any pretext will do. Perhaps I shall turn without warning on some innocent fellow-columnist and rend her limb from limb. That Nigella Lawson, all that hair, who does she think she is? As for Simon so-called Jenkins — pah! Give me five minutes down a dark alley with him and he'll wish he'd never heard of the common fisheries policy. And Levin, get those glasses off...

Good, isn't it? Provided you stand well back, nothing is more fun than someone else's fury. This week's spectacle was Germaine Greer, *Guardian* columnist and legendary feminist, lashing out at a fellow writer in this paper, Suzanne Moore.

She castigated her smoking, bird's-nest hair, "and three feet inches of cleavage". She opined that too much lipstick had rotted Moore's brain.

The *Guardian* modestly shrank from publishing this, although not apparently from leaking it to another newspaper's diary. So Germaine Greer resigned, turning her fury briefly on them — "the worst boys' club on Fleet Street" — and then back on Moore with a crack about "endlessly replaceable tobacco-ridden hackettes".

Now, I am not just repeating all this for fun, although it is. There has been a lot of sanctimonious talk, not least from Ms Moore, about how awful it is for women to be seen "mud-wrestling": how it makes men gloat, less down sisterhood, etc. In this household, my spouse went all 1950s-Yorkshire on me and said it was disgraceful when women brawled in public because they should set an example to men. This responsibility I like Ms Greer, firmly repudiate. With chaps like Sir

Kingsley Amis at large, there is no hope at all of edifying men, so we girls might as well let rip.

But one thing is utterly feminine about the Greer outbursts, and all the more fascinating because they come from someone usually so ungracious. Observe the remarkable speed with which this intellectual woman descended to physical detail: the hair, the shoes, the lipstick, the cleavage. But this is Germaine Greer, for heaven's sake, heroine to a generation, the woman who we thought had freed us from fretting about our toilette or anyone else's. If she does it, the rest of us can admit to it. So brother sisterhood: here comes some anthropology.

I have known serious, senior women, having fallen out over a professional issue, to narrow their eyes and hiss things like "Her in her prissy little Princess Di collar!" Or "Never trust a woman who wears white shoes!" I have heard a newspaper editor damned for her dereliction when the real quarrel was over a budget; and one broadcasting executive ranting about another's designer-shaggy hair, although I believe the original row was over digital editing. A political writer of some distinction is frequently the subject of venom not for her right-wing views but her seamed stockings; no doubt defeated barristers jeer at the woman judge's perm, while back in the lodgings Her Honour inveighs against that stinky little madam who wears her tops too tight.

It is disgraceful. Men don't do it, do they? They insult one another's intellect, psyche and morality, but stop short of deriding an enemy for having frizzy hair or sock-suspenders. So men tell me, anyway. You may know different: any undercover reporter from the *gents* at the Garrick Club would be most welcome.



LIBBY PURVES

To cries of 'betrayal' the secret work of Tory whips is being exposed on television

## The man who has opened the dirt book

The face of Michael Cockerell is seen less on camera than that of a Paxman or a Dimbleby. But for a true picture of political leaders in the late 20th century, as Peter Riddell once said, the self-effacing Cockerell's portraits are the vital source.

His most subversive and revealing film yet, *Westminster's Secret Service*, goes out this Sunday (BBC2, 9pm). The Tory whips wanted to prevent it being made, and one can see why.

It is shrouded in an atmosphere of evasion, conspiracy and suspense. The film's director, Alison Cahn, eavesdrops in the Members' Lobby where all the men appear to be whispering, buttonholing, bending ears, sidling through the secret door off the lobby to the Whips' Office. In the hours before a vital vote, Ian Paisley is seen putting a fraternal arm round Teddy Taylor. In the background Michael Nyman's music from *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* throbbsly chants its urgent theme.

Even Mrs Thatcher once had to ask her friend Parkinson: "Cecil, what exactly do the whips do?" After oily Francis Urquhart, we all know, though a former Thatcher whip declares on film that "no Chief Whip in my experience has been a murderer..." Stephen Dorrell — who was called traitor by a whip for taking part in this film — picks "my friend Tristan Garel-Jones" as the most Urquhartian exponent of the Black Art. When Cockerell shows Garel-Jones lighting a furtive cigarette in the Gothic window of the Palace of Westminster it looks like the most sinister, Machiavellian acts.

"The whips," Cockerell says, "are like the Italian Camorra, revelling in their own mystique. There's never been a book written about them. Discretion is like the calcium in

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



the bones of any Tory Chief Whip."

I asked whether the Government Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, had taken part. "Richard Ryder?" cried Cockerell. "He's a man who wears his watch face inwards rather than give anyone the time of day." Not even for his friend Cockerell would Ryder break the whips' embargo on bean-spilling. When Cockerell protested that even the head of M15 had now given a Dimbleby lecture, the boyish Ryder gave a light laugh: "I'm a real bastard," he said.

Like gossip columnists, the whips want us to think they are privy to darkest secrets. "Shits" lists are drawn up at whips' dinners. Usefully damaging details of MPs' private lives are entered in the "dirt book", locked in the Chief Whip's safe at No 12. Like police work, it's partly a confidence trick: their powers depend on their not being explicit about how much they really know. Grasses and informers are *personae gratiae*.

Their weapon is patronage: "You'd like to be a minister one day, wouldn't you?" They may help a Member over a debt or a scandal, knowing that "if we get a chap out of trouble, he'll do as we ask for ever more". They bestow ministerial appointments, hours, trips abroad. Impervious

MPs who want none of these things are whips' nightmares. Anyone who votes against the Government without telling the whips can, as the whips' heavy man David Lightbown says of Norman Lamont, "go and play the fiddle in the fields on his own, and die in the grass".

Whips used to be, in Alan Clark's words, field sports enthusiasts, who had bullied lower boys at Eton. "Now it is recognised as a nursery for junior ministers." More than a third of Major's Cabinet, including Clarke and Portillo, were apprenticed in the Whips' Office.

In this exclusively male network (there have long been women Labour whips, but only Mrs Bottomley has ever got close to the Tory Whips' Office) most women would be quite at sea. "Kenneth Baker's wife Mary told me," Cockerell says, "that when she first sat on a company board she went to a board meeting with a good idea but couldn't get it through — and Ken said I should have fixed it in advance; networked, got people on my side, taken them to lunch..." Precisely as the Whips' Office operates.

We see the pressures put on Members, the calling in of debts: MPs are summoned back from the Caribbean, from skiing, or from their deathbeds: poor Geoffrey Dickens, with terminal cancer, is filmed driving himself to Westminster where he meets Julian Critchley, fellow cannon fodder ("we are the last reserves") being wheeled into the lobby — poignantly, Dickens's final appearance, coming to the aid of a desperate party.

Cockerell, the John Aubrey of the small screen, has now completed ten riveting portraits. "The idea came from the late Bob Mackenzie, who said imagine what it would be like



Michael Cockerell: exploring the conspiratorial, all-male world of the Whips' Office

if there were videos of Gladstone and Disraeli... For 12 years Cockerell was *Panorama*'s chief political reporter. His barrister father, Professor Hugh Cockerell, teaches insurance law at the City University. Cockerell on insurance is a standard law reference book. Mother was a writer of plays and novels. Cockerell went to Corpus, Oxford, where he played cricket and jazz, and incidentally read PPE.

He has six children: a grown son and daughter, and four daughters under ten. "The older I get, the newer I become as a father," he says. "Before, I never changed a nappy. But I have become a New Man." If I were making a Cockerell-style film on Cockerell, I would juxtapose this statement with the sound of a crying baby and a shot of his partner Anna Lloyd, at home with infant in arms,

answering the telephone to me at 8pm with the words, "No, Michael's not home yet. I'm afraid I have no idea where he is."

His device is to lead on his interviewees in gentle masculine banter. He asks Tim Fortescue (Heath whip: "You've never had a woman in the Whips' Office, yet you had a woman leader?" "Well, you've got to get your priorities right," chuckles Fortescue. "Meaning what?" asks Cockerell, laughing along: "being a whip is more important than being leader?" Fortescue gives another crinkly laugh, effectively conceding that Cockerell may say that, but he could not possibly comment.

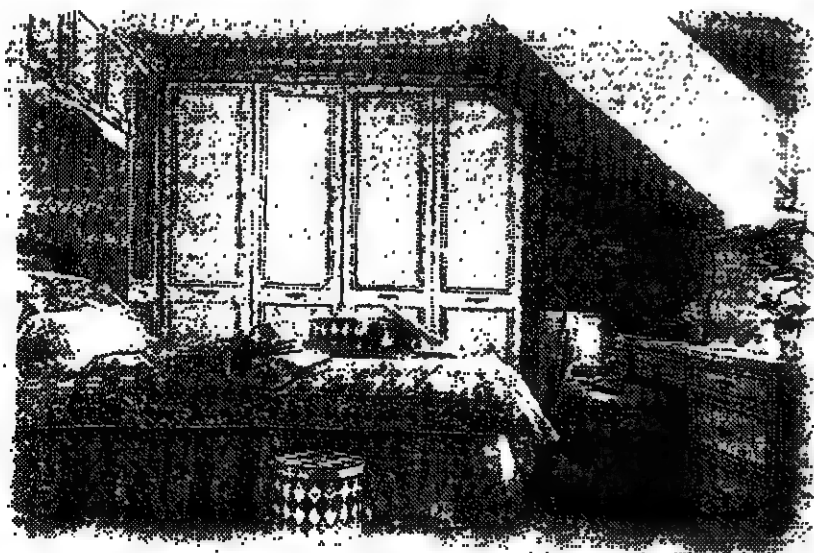
"If you just replicated the studio interview, two suits facing each other, you'd get all

the defensive mechanisms politicians have learnt. But catch them at different times and you get quite a different picture." By making subjects watch old footage of themselves, he gets a glimpse into their souls. Jane Clark unexpectedly opened up one day while feeding the preening peacocks at Saltwood. Was her husband like the peacocks, Cockerell asked casually — and the floodgates opened.

You get more out of people by being confidential than confrontational, he says, resorting to a cricketer's analogy: "If a fast bowler always bowls balls that bounce short and come straight for the throat, all you will see is the defensive strokes. And a lot of ministers become very good at defensive strokes. Whereas if you vary the bowling, you lull them into a false sense of security." Watch that wicket.

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A portrait of a Princess: "The Princess of Wales takes care of herself — we felt this was the one for the book"

## Who are the faces of the Nineties?

The Princess of Wales is there, the Prince is not. Joan Collins is out. Baroness Thatcher is in. Kenneth Branagh is out. Esther Rantzen is in. Jeremy Paxman should be, but isn't. Take that as the verdict on the people who are "synonymous with, or shaping Britain in the 1990s". Those deemed to deserve the label appear in *People of the 90s* (price £20), a book of pictures by Gemma Levine, a portrait photographer who has spent two years tracking her prey.

**Julia Llewellyn Smith asks the photographer Gemma Levine how she chose the subjects for her book**

Some posed willingly (the politicians were begging to do it), others needed considerable coaxing. Some granted Mrs Levine an audience in their homes or offices, others visited her in her studio, on top of her flat in the West End of London. The Princess of Wales, as president of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund, to which all the book's

profits will be donated, was one of the latter. "She arrived with a whole wardrobe of clothes, which she changed into behind a screen. I'd expected someone rather shy, but she was natural, sweet and unpretentious with a very attractive, throaty laugh." First Mrs Levine shot her in white against a white background, then in a low-cut black gilet against black. "We decided that was the one for the book." The Princess is smiling broadly, her head leaning on her remarkably muscular arms. "That is a woman who takes care of herself," says Mrs Levine.

Joan Collins takes care of herself, too. "Every turn of her face, every gesture of her hand is perfectly calculated," says

"Major suddenly burst out into fits of laughter — we don't know to this day what amused him"

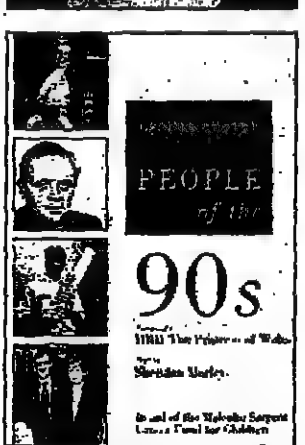
Mrs Levine. But when the photographs reached the cutting room at HarperCollins, these were the ones which fell on the floor. Poor Miss Collins was not considered 1990s enough: nor, at the final edit, were Kenneth Branagh, Nigel Dempster, Sir Norman Fowler, Maureen Lipman and Brian Walden. Kate Adie, Jeremy Paxman and Branagh's wife, Emma Thompson, were all considered essential to the Zeitgeist, but like many superstars were too busy working to see Mrs Levine.

She got on splendidly with Baroness Thatcher, who approved of her swift work. "I'm in and out in a maximum of 20 minutes," Mrs Levine says. "I can't bear to see boredom in people's faces."

The daughter of a metal-hurler and the owner of a Knightsbridge dress shop, Mrs Levine has no formal photographic training. She married a lawyer, Eric, and had two sons. One of Eric's clients was Sir Charles Forte, who in 1975 admired her 'Instamatic snaps of some sculptures of Henry Moore's. Sir Charles persuaded her to work with Moore on a book. Since then, there have been a dozen books and 30 exhibi-

tions, with the emphasis on portrait photography in London and in Israel.

Six years ago, her marriage broke up. Work became a salvation. Many subjects have become friends; equally, many friends have become subjects. Certainly, the book says a lot about Mrs Levine's metropolitan lifestyle: with a strong bias towards the restaurant trade, arts administration and the kookier world of alternative medicine. Whether Michael Rasser, "the Michael of Michaeljohn hairdressing", Phil Collins and Felicity Kendal are more symbolic of 1990s

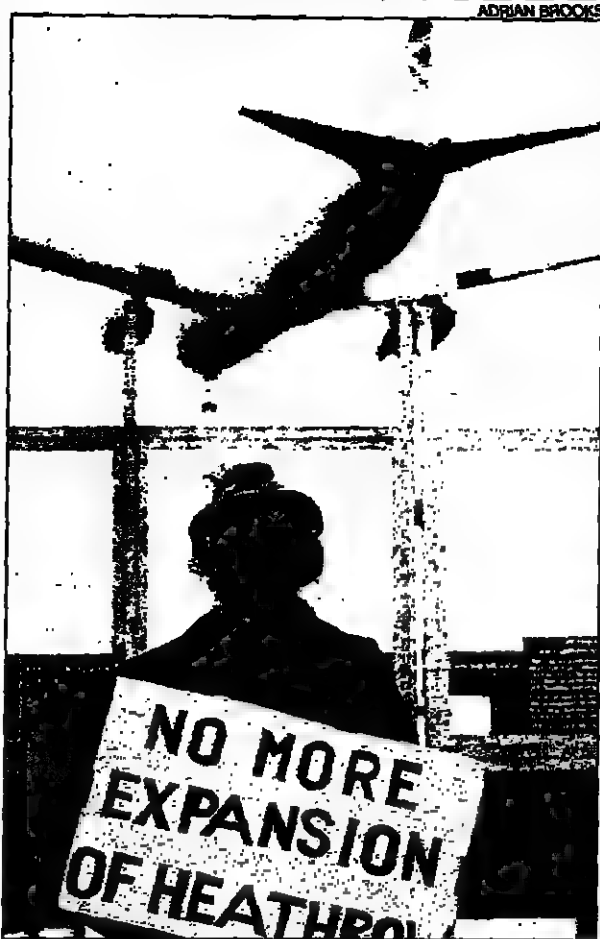


Gemma Levine and her book

culture than Ryan Giggs, Chris Evans and Elizabeth Hurley is a matter of opinion. Her favourite subjects are babies and actors, although many of her best pictures are of politicians: Michael Portillo, leaning roguishly against a mantelpiece; Tony Blair, photographed before he was leader, standing, prophetically, in the shadow of Big Ben; a poignant John Smith, head bowed in his office; and a charming study of John Major in fits of laughter. "That was quite a fluke. He was being very serious and suddenly he found something extremely amusing. We don't know to this day what it was, but I was, thank goodness, quick to pull the trigger. His press secretary said: 'The Prime Minister won't permit you to use that,' but in fact he loved it."

## The voice of Terminal 5

**Margot Norman meets the veteran 'green' who is promoting a new Heathrow extension**



Shadow over Heathrow — a typical anti-T5 image

Des Wilson is a frustrated man. He looks it, too, pacing his office like some feral, fast-talking, red-faced antipodean hamster. The office belongs to the Corporate Affairs Director of BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority): the veteran campaigner and environmentalist has occupied it for seven months, building the company's case for Terminal 5 at Heathrow, taking stick from environmentalists who say he has sold his principles for a six-figure salary and getting... on the face of it, not that far.

Newspapers and television still illustrate items on Terminal 5 with carefully-angled shots (like the one on the right) of aircraft menacing houses. I needn't tell you what the anti-noise lobby is saying, you've already heard it, *ad nauseam*.

So why is it that "virtually no one" knows all the things Wilson has been busting a gut to tell them, for instance, that this thing is being built not on virgin pasture but on a sewage farm within the airport precincts, that it won't be completed for nearly 20 years, that if you tell American airlines they can't come to Heathrow they won't meekly divert to Stansted, they'll just take their transfer passengers (almost a third of the people who land at Heathrow) to Amsterdam or Charles de Gaulle instead?

Why, in short, isn't everyone as convinced as Wilson himself that, to borrow a Thatcherite phrase, there is no alternative to Terminal 5? For Des Wilson undoubtedly is convinced. The man who has spent more than half his life fighting brilliant campaigns for the homeless, for Friends of the Earth, for the Liberal Democrats, against tobacco and against lead in petrol, may be making an unaccustomed lack of headway with the media on this issue, but he believes in what he's doing.

"Look, I'm still an environmentalist, and I'm distressed by people saying I've sold out. After nearly 30 years working for little money — none at all for my two years with the Liberal Democrats — would I suddenly just sell my reputation for what I can get?"

Wilson promised his wife he would earn some money after the Lib-Dem period and did, as vice president of the PR company Burson Mars-

teller. (It was an unhappy time: he disliked the "necessary profiteering" from his clients.) His campaigning years, he felt, were over: people had started crossing the street to avoid having to talk about whatever his next campaign might be.

I have always understood the business of looking after the interests of industry, which produces the country's wealth. I'm not the idealistic type of environmentalist, I'm a pragmatist. I'm aware of the passing years, and I do want to see things happen. I think that every time a Des Wilson joins a company like BAA the environmental movement should cheer to the rafters and say, "We're getting our people where they can have influence."

So how has he been using that influence at BAA? With-

out claiming that an airport (especially one gearing up to handle 80 million passengers a year) can actually be a good neighbour, he waves a list of things he has persuaded the company to do to make it a better one. Some local headway has been made. Even though 9,000 of the 10,000 submissions to the public inquiry that opened this week into Terminal 5 are against the project, polls commissioned by BAA are now showing more local people in favour than against.

More interestingly, for all the noise being made about the noise issue, local people told pollsters that traffic congestion concerned them far more than aircraft noise (23 per cent cited traffic, 9 per cent cited noise.)

The more you listen to Terminal 5 objectors, the more you realise that this row is less about building an extra

terminal at Heathrow than about rising levels of frustration about the lack of an integrated transport policy in this country. It is about the choked state of the M25 and the M4 around Heathrow already, about the lack of public transport and of even the faintest glimmer of a national policy for improving the situation.

Get Des Wilson on the subject of national transport policy and he lights up. "It's a complete shambles, something that has been made a colossal hash of. Look, you be the Transport Minister and I'll be the Secretary of State."

There follows a role-playing exercise in which, at breakneck speed, he dashes through the issues, and the amounts BAA is spending (£400 million on Heathrow Express, and so on). He has no doubt that any conceivable Transport Secretary, of whatever political colour, would take the need for Terminal 5 as given.

This is the only country in the world running its airports at no cost to the taxpayer. Heathrow is the world's international hub and without Terminal 5 the business will go elsewhere. Since 1985, the Government has effectively left aviation policy to the private airports. BAA wanted Stansted to work and poured money into it, but aviation economics dictate that it can't do Heathrow's job. It was BAA that bullied the Government, not the other way around, into ruling out another runway in the South East.

Now BAA has had to bully the Government on road policy, too, forcing it to rule out the expansion of the M25 into a 14-lane motorway. Des Wilson finds himself speaking for a lot of environmentalists when he says it should not be up to BAA, and nor should it be up to an enormously lengthy and expensive planning inquiry, to make up the nation's overall transport policy.

Nevertheless, if the Government won't do it, Wilson is ready to roll up his sleeves, use his old tactics of getting opponents round the table to hammer out common ground, and have a go. When I saw him, a posse of environmentalists and transport campaigners were coming to lunch to do just that.

## Jeffrey Archer, schoolteacher.

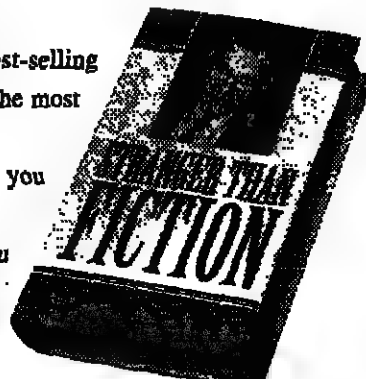


## But was he really qualified to wear the gown?

Much of Jeffrey Archer's life is a mystery. Self-made millionaire, best-selling author, leading figure in sport and politics, Jeffrey Archer has been one of the most colourful characters in British public life for more than a decade.

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# There's no legislating for honour

J. Enoch Powell argues that the Nolan proposals misunderstand the nature of Parliament

Amid the general contempt into which the concept of parliamentary sovereignty appears to be slipping, the breach in it which the Nolan committee's proposals represent is in danger of being overlooked. It is a characteristic inseparable from any body which is sovereign that it is subject to no external supervision or interference. The immunity of the House of Commons itself from interference or influence by the Crown was due to the application of that principle with rigorous logic. Of course, in the age of the European Union people may no longer care about the sovereignty of Parliament. But if they still do — and woe betide them in the long run if they do not — they had best not establish the supervisory body recommended by Nolan.

This is a point which deserves to be treated with the utmost seriousness and not pushed to one side with a shrug of the shoulder and a quotation of the tag about *girls' studies*. I do not know in what manner it may be proposed to implement the Nolan committee's recommendations: but I very much fear that the easy way out will be taken and that they will be implemented by resolution, which would expose to disciplinary proceedings in the House any Member who contravened them. But there is an extremely serious point here which goes to the right and liberties of the individual citizen.

The conditions and requirements for being a Member of Parliament are laid down by statute. They cannot therefore, in form or in substance, be altered by resolution of either House. In fact, they are the nearest thing we possess to an "entrenched" part of the constitution.

It was for this reason that I steadily declined to obey the resolution of the House which required declaration of "Members' interests", while at the same time affirming my readiness to comply if the requirement should be imposed by law, and my submission to the inherent right of the House to punish and even expel any of its Members "without cause shown" and in particular for disobedience to any of its resolutions. The House in the event did not proceed against me. It would be a breach of the same basic principle

to declare by resolution of the House its own subordination to rules regulating its conduct.

The trouble about the Nolan committee is that it was established to define the indefinable, and reduce to a set of rules that which cannot be so treated. The House of Commons expects its Members to behave as a gentleman would behave: but to sit down and draw up a schedule of how a gentleman will behave is in the nature of the case not possible. If it were, we could do without gentlemen.

At the root of all this debate there lies the question of why people become Members of Parliament, and to that there can be only one satisfactory reply. By satisfactory, I mean satisfactory to the public interest. It is not for career, nor for remuneration or perquisites. It is, quite simply, for the sake of being a Member of Parliament, because that is held to be an honourable thing to be. It is a matter, if one dare breathe the word in this "classless society", of status: the esteem of oneself and of one's fellow citizens. So long as this is the motivation of Members of Parliament, the public interest is safe in their hands. Should it ever cease to be the motivation, no amount of rule-making or supervision or regulation can provide a replacement.

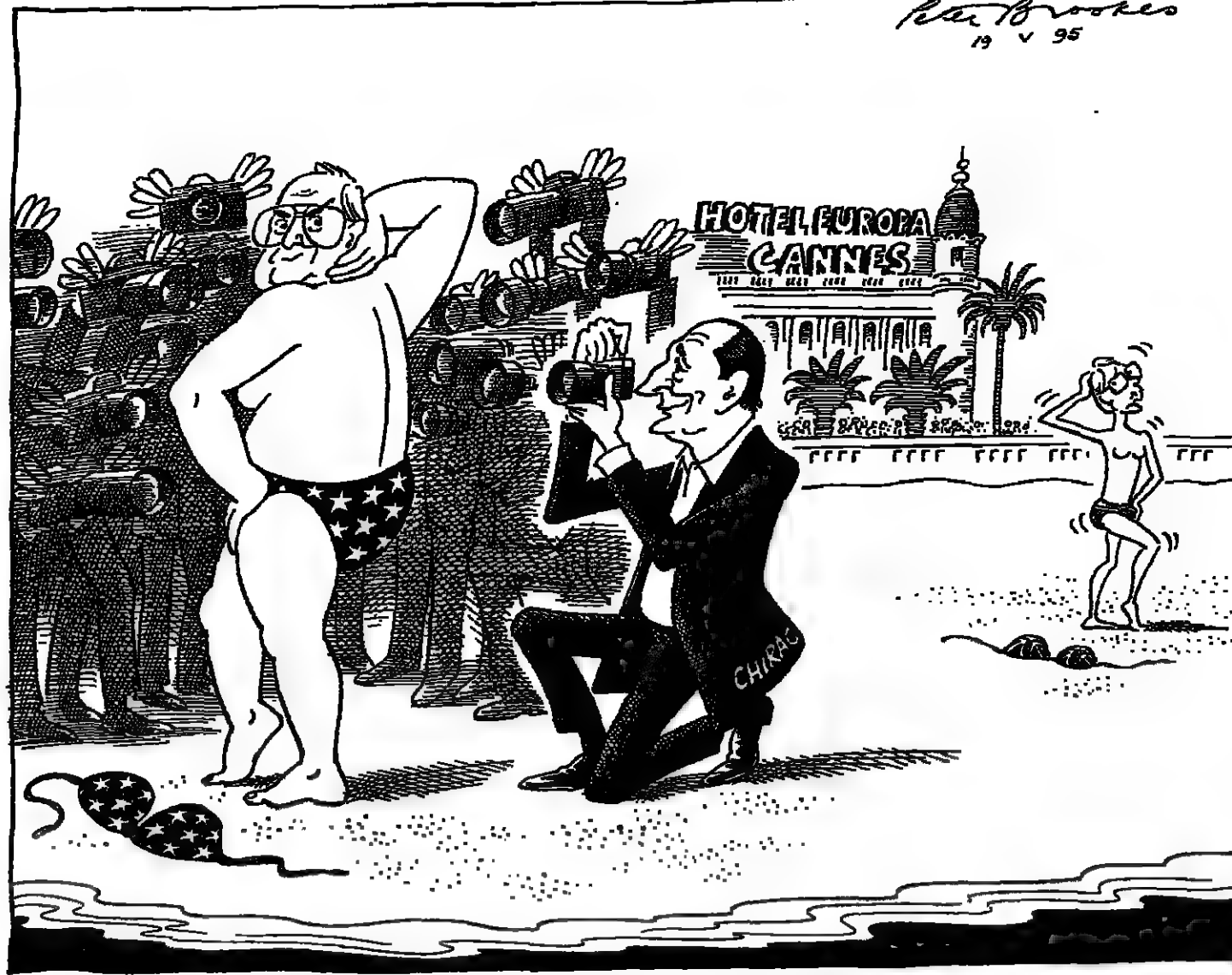
To be a Member of Parliament is a matter of status. It cannot be converted into "the rate for the job". The "job" — ugly word — is what the individual Member in his own conscience believes it to be, and there is no arguing with conscience or means of inventing an institution for its enforcement.

Emoluments have been introduced, increased, and elaborated. This has only damaged the concept of status. If "my honourable Friend" or "the honourable Member" is not honourable, no amount of regulation or supervision will make him so. If or when the House of Commons ceases to be an assembly of gentlemen, it will be hard to rescue, but Nolan or no Nolan, that time is. I hope, still far off.

The good standing of Parliament cannot be reduced to a set of rules



Enoch Powell: the Commons answers only to itself



## The good fraud guide

A crime is a crime, but when experts are taken in and only reputations suffer, it can also be hilarious

I know it is anti-social, and I ought to be ashamed of myself — well, I am — but there is a streak in me which, when an enormous white-collar crime has been perpetrated and the villains have got away with millions, finds me cheering on the villains' side. I am not so depraved as to admire an example of robbery with violence — the train-robbers were hailed as daring heroes, but I still feel nothing but rage when I think of the train-guard they damaged for life by hitting him with an iron bar — and I would certainly be found on the victim's side if it were, say, a matter of a swindler who has conned decent and un-moneyed people out of their few pounds. But when it comes to the boardroom, and the members of the board are going pale as they have just found the gigantic hole in the balance sheet, I am to be heard chuckling, and on very good days (a good day is one on which the sum that has vanished is in seven figures) the chuckling turns into roars of laughter.

I don't know when or how I came to find myself on the side of the baddest, nor what it indicates. I have never thought, even for a moment, of taking up white-collar crime as a profession, and not only because I would undoubtedly be found out. There is an element in my *Schadenfreude* which says "serve them right", presumably meaning that they had too much money for their own good and it is a good idea to lighten their wallets, but I am sure that that is not the core of my amusement, which is wholly self-contained. (Obviously, I cheer more loudly when it is the banks that cop it, if only because their stupidity, greed and incompetence invite the trouble.)

My man of the month for some time past was the good Herr Jürgen Schneider (well, strictly speaking, the bad Herr Jürgen Schneider), who made a huge *reclame* in German property dealings and, during and after the war, was a pillar of probity, daring and wisdom, as was fully demonstrated by the fact that the banks had been told as much by the good Herr Schneider himself. The German banks (which are just the same as other banks, only in German) poured money into our hero's coffers on note of hand alone, and went on doing so until one bright and sunny day our hero vanished, taking with him all the money in the entire German banking system. He has never been seen

again, nor has all the money in the entire German banking system. No doubt, you have guessed that I am about to describe a juicy scam in the boardrooms. True, I am, but I am going further than that: I have not one juicy scam for you but five, and I shall describe them in turn.

The first involves philately, of which I have said that it is the only thing more boring than trying to count the bubbles in a bathtub of bubble-bath. This case was said by the prosecution to be "one of the major stamp frauds of modern times": I wasn't in court, but I hope that there was someone there who giggled at that point. Anyway, it seems that the culprit had got away every time with his forged stamps; even the other experts were fooled, and he could have gone on indefinitely, were it not that the hound of guilt bit him, leading him to confess to the police.

Then it becomes much more hilarious; indeed, I am on the verge of doubling up with laughter. This one concerns a Nigerian gentleman, Ogundejí by name. His fertile mind came up with an idea involving the most sober form of learning: all he did was to enrol as a student at no fewer than 12 universities simultaneously, the idea being that he would — and did — get the standard grants that go to every undergraduate. So little do our seats of learning know about anything other than their particular discipline that our hero would from time to time register twice at the same university, with nobody noticing. Ugundejí made some £40,000 a term before he was nabbed, and although that is a substantial sum, I am sorry that he was sent down for as long as three-and-a-half years.

Then comes an even more delightful story, though it is of the kind that only a swine like me would laugh at. True, the villain, one Andrew Rooke, was British, though working for a German firm

(serve them right) as operations manager of a bank (another bank diddle — hurrah!), but what signalled that Rooke might be not quite 16 annas to the rupee was that he was "unwilling to return from Russia" — whither he had gone, no doubt, because it was cold there whereas here it was very much too hot for him to stay.

But that was nothing. Rooke claimed many distinctions which — how shall I put it? — were somewhat exaggerated. For instance, he told his solicitors that he was about to receive a million pounds, and backed up the claim with a false document. No million arrived, alas.

As for Rooke's credentials, they were wonderfully romantic; he claimed, for instance, to be a chartered accountant, to have gained seven A levels, to have Italian professional qualifications, as well as actuarial and taxation ones, all of which were entirely chimerical. What is more, he had — careless fellow — forgotten that he had been convicted of eight offences, including obtaining property by deception, forgery and the use of false documents, and that a further eight offences had been taken into account. Oh, and the Securities and Futures Authority, studying Rooke's current scam, decided that he had "concealed the recent conviction deliberately and was blatantly dishonest in misleading his employers and the SFA".

But my favourite — surely it is so charming — concerns one Alak Krishnan, who has found the most delightful way to riches. He is a restless globetrotter going higher and higher and back again, and — how unlucky can you get? — every time he goes abroad he complains that his luggage has been stolen or opened and rifled. The unfortunate traveller naturally turns to the loss adjusters and insurance companies to make good the loss — that's what they are there for, after all —

and Krishnan went to it: he claimed that he had lost *inter alia* 36 suits, 57 pairs of trousers, 86 shirts, ten leather jackets and seven pairs of binoculars, to say nothing of the cameras, laptop computers, camcorders, jewellery and silk saris for his ex-wife. (Ah, *monsieur, quelle délicatesse!*)

Yet the best is to come. I must say, before I plunge into it, that I have read the matter in hand several times, and I cannot understand a word of it. There is a company called *Metallgesellschaft* — presumably something to do with metals — and a man called Schimmelbusch who seems to be suing the *Metallgesellschaft* for \$10 million for starters and on top of that claiming that he has been defamed. (I warn you: before I'm done I shall have run out of noughts.)

But you should take a look at what Mr Schimmelbusch is getting into. There is a man called Schmitz, whom Mr Schimmelbusch plainly wouldn't trust as far as he could throw him, and a Professor Merton Miller who has a Nobel Prize and says things like "the Deutsche Bank had misunderstood the oil futures" (I told you I wouldn't understand a word of it all), and there was a Mr Hartmann who said nothing but that Mr Schmitz "declines to speak to any media about this matter at this point", and so on, and on, and on. And, indeed, on.

And now, what is all this really about? Well, I could have got bored very quickly. So I am content — truly content — to sit in the window-corner and watch the world go by. Because as it goes, it takes an infinite number of stories with it.

You see, I didn't seek out those true but amazing tales; they fell unbidden into my lap, and as I shook my head in wonder, I thought that this must be worth ten times as many losses any adjuster could count.

Oh, Mr Ogundejí with your 12 bogus university places; Oh, you philatelists with your forged postage stamps; Oh, Mr Krishnan with your eternal lost luggage; Oh, Mr Rooke with your claim to have seven GCE A levels, Oh, Mr Schimmelbusch, Oh, Mr Metallgesellschaft — you have all given us amusement, thought, a pleasantly idle hour or two, and done no harm to anyone. I rest my case.

Bernard Levin

## Bedtime story

AN OPPORTUNITY to sleep in Vita Sackville-West's bed and to work in Harold Nicolson's study has arisen at Sissinghurst. The Elizabethan cottage where the literary couple lived for much of their unorthodox married life will soon become available for rent.

The present occupant is giving up the lease he has enjoyed for the past 10 years on South Cottage in Sissinghurst's gardens. Ed Victor, a literary agent who lives in the two-up, two-down cottage at one of the National Trust's most popular properties, is seeking pastures new.

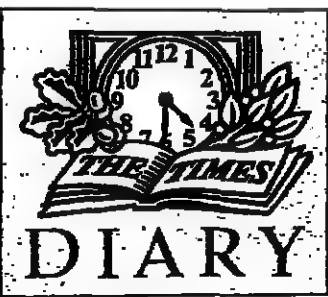
"It's time to let someone else have a turn in South Cottage," he says. "My wife and I sleep in Vita's bed, and Harold's library is the greatest place on earth to work. I get four hours done in an hour when I'm at that desk. There's something about the atmosphere. Iris Murdoch and Stephen Spender have retreated there to work. And David Hare and Louis Malle wrote the sex scenes from *Damage* in the house."

The rent has not been disclosed, and there is the disadvantage of 50,000 visitors to the garden each year. Vita and Harold's son Nigel

is on hand for advice at Sissinghurst Castle. "Both my parents died there and I grew up there, so I am fond of the place," he says. "I am rather envious that people can sleep in my mother's bed. But it is right that it should be there. The rest of the furnishings are quite ordinary and not very smart."



"I call him Sleaze because he keeps popping his head up"



● The Princess Royal clearly holds horses in high esteem in comparison to journalists. "A horse is a very non-judgmental thing: it doesn't say anything or make assumptions about what you can and cannot do and yet it seems to have an understanding of what people are capable of," she tells *The Field*.

### All change

LONDON TRANSPORT is proving itself to be an admirably broad church. After lobbying from transsexuals, it has agreed to accommodate those who are in the throes of a sex change with a new Travelcard.

The need has arisen because people undergoing a sex change are advised in therapy to live the life of their preferred sex prior

to their operation. They may, for example, head for work as a man but choose to go out in the evening dressed as a woman. This has led to confusion among the ticket staff.

"We are now willing to issue two separate photocards — one for their male identity and one for the female identity — but with the same serial number," says a London Transport spokesman. "This is not something for transvestites, however. This is only for people undergoing sex change operations."

### New horizons

AFTER SNAPPING up a Picasso for £18 million this week, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has decided to earn himself some loose change. He is to write his first advertising jingles, which will go with British Airways ads from the New Saatchi Agency.

The composer was approached by Maurice Saatchi, and his consent appears to have been a key factor in persuading British Airways to take its account to the agency. Lloyd Webber's last brush with the advertising world was when he advised on the music for the Conservative Party's 1992 successful election campaign. The

smart money is he won't be doing the Tory jingle next time around.

### In the Cannes

IF WE GO BY the auguries, Stephen Dorrell, who heads for the Cannes Film Festival this weekend, will lose his National Heritage portfolio. There appears to be a sinister correlation between British ministers attending the annual gathering and their prompt change of office.

David Mellor and Peter Brooke lost their jobs soon after the festival. Lord Heseltine was moved after returning from Cannes, where he represented the Department of Trade and Industry as the "films minister". And everyone is already talking about a move for Dorrell.

"It's a bit sad when all this money is spent on entertaining them," says David Aukin, head of drama at Channel 4, who will see Dorrell at the festival on Sunday.

### Daddy's girl

THE 30-year-old daughter of the antipodean cartoonist Rolf Harris is continuing the family tradition at the case. Bindi Harris launches her first exhibition of oils at Lon-



Bindi Harris: launching her first art exhibition

don's Candid Gallery next week. "My pictures are very emotional and impressionistic... absolutely nothing like Dad's, except that they're big," she says. In 1992, Rolf Harris surprisingly topped a poll of a thousand people asked to name a well-known artist — ahead of Michelangelo and Leonardo. Harris says: "I don't think people think I'm better than Rembrandt... but Bindi might keep them on their toes."

P.H.S

## Philip Howard



■ All honour to the man who brought East and West together

The Japanese are different. Their mad cults seem more violent, their manners more formal, their theatrical performances longer, their food fishier, their culture more impenetrable. Not surprisingly, the languages and literatures of the two island races have more trouble than most in achieving mutual understanding.

Since the 16th century there has been a small but steady flow of Japanese words into English, but mostly of specialised words describing life and culture on the other side of the world: *bonsai*, *ju-jitsu*, *Nintendo*, *karaoke* and *tofu*. Traffic of languages in the other direction, by what the Japanese call *gairaigo* (imported language), has been heavier since the war cracked the xenophobia of Japan, and semantically wilder. The confusions of Janglish make good copy, from *baikingu* (a buffet meal, *sc. smorgasbord*, *sc. Viking*) to the title of a recent bestselling novel, *Bijin Rodo* ("Virgin Road"), which is meant to refer to the aisle a bride walks down in church.

International travel is breaking down the bamboo partitions between the two cultures. Every morning before the English have collected the milk from their doorsteps, Japanese tourists at Peter Pan's statue in Kensington Gardens bow and ask the early Jack-Russell-walker to snap them on their Canons against the pink blossom. Their faith in his cinematographic dexterity is touching but misplaced. From Jane Austen to Van Gogh, the Japanese are into European culture. And now, culture-hopping in the other direction, we have unveiled an English Heritage blue plaque to the Englishman who introduced Japanese literature to the West.

Arthur Waley did more than anyone before to open the eyes of the Western world to the classical literature of Japan and China. He taught himself both languages while working in the Oriental prints and drawings section of the British Museum. From *The Tale of Genji* to *The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon*, his translations were bestsellers and influenced Yeats and Pound. Although often invited after he became famous, he never set foot in Japan or China. The British Museum was his new-found land, and his travels were voyages through ancient Oriental manuscripts.

His translations were attacked by the literati and parodied by Lytton Strachey. A professor sent him a postcard: "I am afraid I can't get much from your translations. I don't need a Chinese poet to tell me that rivers don't turn back in their courses." He was referring to Waley's couplet: "The hundred rivers eastward travel to the ocean; / Never shall they turn back again to the West." As it happened, Euripides had used much the same figure of the impossibility of rivers running uphill in *Medea*.

Waley once suggested that people who did not usually read poetry liked his poems because they were concrete and particular about a beautiful tree or a lovely person — not abstractions about Beauty and Love in the Western tradition started by Plato. "Ordinary people have very little use for abstractions, and when poetry, under the influence of the higher education, becomes abstract, it bores them."

In the meeting of two worlds he started, the diligent Japanese have now rediscovered Waley. His widow Alison's story of their extraordinarily romantic on-off relationship, *A Half of Two Lives*, has been translated into Japanese, and Arthur's papers and more poems have been discovered by a Japanese researcher in the paper mountain at their home in Highgate. At the unveiling of the plaque to the scholar poet who introduced East to West, a Japanese professor sent Alison a message: "Cultivated Japanese understand intuitively what it means when a man has slipped through a mail-box a first line of a Uta poem. Your answer was: 'If you love and I love / Can it be we shall never meet?' In this way the 10th-century Japanese poem became a reality in 20th-century London. What a marvellous thing!"



Philip Howard



## ETERNAL TRIANGLE

Chirac will be looking for friends in London as well as Bonn

Much has been made in Paris and Bonn of President Chirac's first tête-à-tête, only hours after taking office, with Helmut Kohl. The symbolism was interpreted in both capitals as a sign that for all his campaign rebelliousness, M Chirac has no intention of taking French foreign policy down a radically different path. Both M Chirac and his newly appointed Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, are likely in their new jobs to be as publicly committed to the partnership with Germany, the *franc fort* and the further integration of the European Union as M Juppé was in his old job as Foreign Minister. This ought to reassure Herr Kohl. Indeed, the main fare during his dinner last night in Strasbourg with M Chirac was probably *platitudes du jour*. But beneath the bonhomie of a dinner — an astute move by M Chirac to win the friendship of his weighty German neighbour — there were probably twinges of indignation. Herr Kohl is still nervous that M Chirac is not as fully committed to the European ideal as his predecessor. He knows that the new French President takes a more robust attitude to French sovereignty; that he has no interest in an increase in the authority of the European Parliament or diminution of the power of the Council of Ministers; and that French thinking in the run-up to next year's inter-governmental conference is no longer running parallel with ideas in Bonn.

In this long-standing marriage of convenience, France is finding the bonds too tight. M Chirac needs more room for economic manoeuvre. The fight against unemployment, a campaign priority and the issue on which the electorate expects quick results, demands a loosening of the European monetary restraint and high interest rates.

M Chirac wants to borrow more, even if this makes attainment of the Maastricht convergence criteria more difficult. And, though he is as inhibited by the taboo over the franc's value as all his countrymen, he may secretly share the hopes of the few heretics calling for a slippage in his currency. Herr Kohl, a political realist quick to understand the electoral needs of others, will give him as much leeway as he can. But the room for manoeuvre is inevitably limited by the Bundesbank. And Germany's political vision is more and more focused on the East. M Chirac, therefore, will be looking for openings elsewhere. This is where Britain might find the change in Paris to its advantage. The new Prime Minister is a pragmatist *par excellence*. He has already won the admiration of Douglas Hurd for his stewardship of the Quai d'Orsay and for policies — especially on Bosnia and defence — that have brought Britain and France closer together than for years. Hervé de Charette, the new Foreign Minister, is an unknown quantity, and policy is likely to remain firmly in M Juppé's hands. Britain can make much of the areas where M Chirac's instincts coincide with John Major's. Both want to cut back the power of the European Commission. The most pro-American of Fifth Republic Presidents also wants to see closer French integration with Nato. All such shifts will remain in the framework of the Franco-German partnership for France, this still remains inescapable. But Britain may find that under President Chirac the eternal triangle of Europe — Bonn, Paris and London — becomes more equilateral. And in the search for common ground before 1996, Mr Major may find hope in the Elysée.

## INTERESTING CONFLICTS

Backbenchers may complain, but Nolan must be implemented

Conflicts of interest in public life are what the Nolan committee was set up to investigate. Nowhere were these conflicts more transparent than on the floor of the House of Commons yesterday. A basic interest of most individual MPs is to earn money to pay their bills, their mortgages, and — on one side of the House at least — their children's school fees. The interests of their parties on the other hand, and of Parliament as a whole, is that this basic individual form of behaviour be controlled. To watch backbenchers wrestling with this issue in the debate on the Nolan report was an instructive experience. Sir Edward Heath, hardly the most popular of Conservative MPs, was cheered to the carved ceiling by his own side when he opposed the whole principle of the report. Others who were against tougher scrutiny of MPs' outside interests resorted to advocating statutory regulation. An alliance of Labour's Tony Benn with right-wing Tories such as Nicholas Budgen and Edward Leigh gives rise to justified scepticism. Drawing up laws about what MPs can and cannot do would be time-consuming, cumbersome and quite inappropriate for the problem. The Nolan committee was only necessary in the first place because of some MPs' apparent inability to distinguish that grey area between what is disreputable and what is illegal. It would be absurd for members to be arrested and prosecuted for failing to declare an interest. Instead, Parliament should draw up its own rules, appoint its own Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, and deal with transgressions itself. This is the most flexible solution and the one that works most closely with the grain of parliamentary sovereignty. The interests of the Conservative Party and the Opposition ought to coincide in the implementation of the Nolan recommenda-

tions. Politics has fallen into disrepute, and there can barely be a person outside Parliament who does not believe that more scrutiny and transparency would help to restore confidence in the standards of public life. There may be other less attractive effects too: but, for the moment, the issue is confidence and corruption. John Major now faces a classic dilemma. The standing of his Government would be improved were he to accept all of the report and put it straight into action. But he faces deep resistance from his own MPs, who see only personal embarrassment ahead. Either they will have to stop taking money from dubious sources, or they will have to confess to doing so, amounts and all, in public. The Prime Minister is now being blamed for setting up the Nolan committee in the first place. If he does not follow it through, the public will not forgive him. If he does, his backbenchers will not forgive him. Politically, the Nolan report has become a gift for the Opposition. But the Labour Party is not immune from criticism. It should be unacceptable, for instance, that its frontbench health team is sponsored by Unison, one of the biggest trade unions in the National Health Service. How can spokesmen honestly claim to be representing consumers rather than producers while those producers are paying their bills? If Tony Blair now intends to lay claim to the moral high ground, he will have to end the individual and group sponsorship of Labour MPs by trade unions. Unions could continue to give money to the party centrally, which could then be disbursed as appropriate. But no MP should feel beholden to any particular union by virtue of financial dependence. Labour will doubtless try to exploit the divisions of the Conservative Party on this issue. But it will have to put its own affairs in order first.

## BETTER CRICKET

The English game cannot survive unchanged

As Richie Richardson and his newly-vincible West Indian cricketers "bed in" at the start of a long tour of England, attention turns to the state of English cricket. The new season is unfurling itself on soggy grounds across the land, and with it has come the same old tizzy. Why do our players not win more matches against serious international opposition? What changes should be wrought to the way in which we organise and play the game at first-class level? Is the malaise technical or is it rooted in our national temperament? These questions, and others, were aired on Wednesday at *The Times/Dillons* cricket forum at Westminster Central Hall, at which Michael Atherton, Graham Gooch, Richie Benaud and Micky Stewart were the participants. It would be an exaggeration to say that the panel had all the answers: they did not. Yet the discussion that ensued from their thoughtful contributions to the national debate on the future of English cricket served at least to highlight those areas of the most acute concern — and also those areas where the most acrid disagreement lies. There is little doubt that English county cricket fails to prepare cricketers adequately for the demands and manly bustle of modern Test cricket. This is because the county championship is extremely uncompetitive: there are too many journeymen playing; and the disparity between the better teams and those of a mediocre cut blunts the technical edge of even the best players. A plausible way to achieve a higher degree of competitiveness in the English game would

be to introduce a two-tier championship, as proposed by county cricketers' "big five" — Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. A two-division competition, with nine teams in the first division and nine in the second, would have more virtues than drawbacks. If relegation were to be the lot of the bottom three teams in the first division, and promotion the reward for the top three in the second, a new cut-and-thrust would come to the manner in which our players approach their cricket. If Gloucestershire, say, were placed ninth halfway through the season — with scant prospect of winning the championship — there would still be an incentive for its players to approach the game with a certain hunger. The threat of relegation would overcome any mid-season tendency to sporting banality. The opponents of such reform would argue that smaller, poorer counties such as Derbyshire might be condemned to permanent exile in the backwaters of the second division. Yet by relegating and promoting three teams — as opposed to two, as some have suggested — there would be a greater fluidity of movement between divisions than is feared by those who oppose change. In any case, the time has perhaps come for a greater ruthlessness of aspect: if the reform of our county structure helps to add steel to the English game at Test level, it is a worthwhile enterprise. The loss of a county side or two is a small price to pay if England is to start to win Test matches again.

## Doubting British influence in EU

From Mr Alan Clark

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Banging the drum has its cost", May 15) does not cite a single instance of British "influence" in Europe being applied to our advantage. Nor does he give an example of where such influence might have been diminished by our (at present very mild) non-compliant attitude. Having chaired the Council of Trade Ministers in Brussels for the whole of the period of the UK presidency I would assert that British influence is always unwelcome; and, subject only to the cursory niceties of diplomatic protocol, gives rise to a tacit, but immediate, conspiracy to resist or deflect it.

This was consistent and without regard to whether the British "case" was put with the patience courtesy and attention to detail of Geoffrey Howe, or in the cruder language of Margaret Thatcher.

Europhilis may have their own agenda. But the fact is that no other European state (except Switzerland, which has wisely kept out of the Community) has either the history of, or empathy with, parliamentary democracy as has the UK.

Their preference is for the bureaucratic monolith where everything can be either fixed or bought. Brussels diplomats plan, socialise and conspire in constant and informal association from which their British counterparts are discreetly excluded.

The only leverage (and it is a powerful one) possessed by Britain is that which comes from being a net contributor to the budget and a net debtor on the terms of trade. As to how much longer we can tolerate so debilitating a relationship, this remains, fortunately, a matter of contention.

Yours etc,  
ALAN CLARK,  
Saltwood Castle, Kent.  
May 15.

From the Co-Chairman of the Bruges Group

Sir, Peter Riddell seems to overestimate the Government's room for manoeuvre at the 1996 inter-governmental conference (IGC) review of the implementation of the Maastricht treaty.

While Mr Major has reaffirmed his support for a Europe of nation states in his 1993 *Economist* article, his 1994 *Ellesmere* Port and Leiden speeches, and in his 1995 Conservative Way Forward speech, the continental preference for federal integration has also intensified.

Mr Santer's federal prescription last week (report, May 11) cannot be lightly dismissed. Herr Kohl, in a tribute to Mitterrand (*Le Monde*, May 11), advocated full political integration and denigrated a Europe of sovereign states. And the EU finance ministers' meeting last month at Versailles reaffirmed both the principle of a single currency and a revised timetable for completion by 2003.

Contrary to Peter Riddell's assertion, the IGC does not seem to offer a vision consistent with Mr Major's, let alone those of us of a more Eurosceptical inclination. In these circumstances it is only right and proper to raise the question of alternatives to federal integration as both Michael Portillo and Norman Lamont have done in their separate ways.

I remain, Sir, yours etc,  
MARTIN HOLMES,  
Co-Chairman,  
The Bruges Group,  
44 Park Town, Oxford.  
May 16.

From Mr Richard Rawthorn

Sir, Mr Riddell is right to point out the futility of Conservatives trying to cling to our sovereignty within Europe. However, by going all the way with the European Union as the price of helping to shape its course, they would, in my view, lose what little support they now have. The sooner the party begins to talk openly about withdrawing the sooner it will start to win back support.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD RAWTHORN,  
Barcroft, Cliviger,  
Nr Burnley, Lancashire.  
May 15.

From Mr William Deller

Sir, Peter Riddell speaks of "maintaining British influence in Europe" but such influence is not proportional to the extent to which Britain embraces the concept of a centralised European Union. Presenting the EU as an either/or issue leads to the situation in which Britain finds itself — appeasement without influence.

There is always a spectrum of possibilities in life; restricting oneself to two constraints one to accept someone else's agenda, which may not be in one's own interests.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM DELLER,  
42 Surrey Row,  
Caversham,  
Reading, Berkshire.  
May 15.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Balance between caring for nurses and their patients

From Mrs Adrienne Mornement

Sir, If there is a "culture of absence" by today's nurses (leading article, May 16), I venture that the reason has more to do with the enormous managerial changes that have taken place over the last four years than with back injuries.

A nursing sister fully expects to take responsibility for general caring and running of a ward full of acutely sick patients, for the daily responsibility of bed availability, and for ensuring adequate trained staff coverage. To this has now been added responsibility for containment within overall budgets of expenditure for both human and physical resources, the demands for which are dictated by circumstances outside her control.

The acquisition of trust status has resulted in most hospitals reducing their manpower considerably, leaving wards and departments stretched to the limit. In addition the nursing staff now have to take on many of the responsibilities of hospital management.

Too often the *raison d'être* of nurses' commitment to patients has been exploited to prevent strike action. The Royal College of Nursing is right to vote for the power to strike (report, May 17). The profession has had enough abuse.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIENNE MORNEMENT  
(SRN, Dip N),  
Robin Lodge,  
Farm Lane, Ashted, Surrey.  
May 17.

From Mrs Hilary Scott

Sir, One of the reasons why nurses are objecting to the Pay Review Body's recommendation on locally determined pay increases is that the mechanisms for negotiating these are not yet in place. The unions were given no warning that local pay bargaining was other than a consideration for the future. There is at present confusion as to who should be bargaining for whom.

Low morale among nurses is widespread and many are leaving the profession. For those of us who are left there is job insecurity and downgrading of posts, together with an ever-increasing workload and responsibility. Is it then surprising that average

sickness rates in the NHS are so much higher, as your leading article points out, than those at Nissan? Nissan has the reputation of being a caring and careful employer — a mantle which the NHS, alas, discarded along with Macon.

Yours faithfully,  
H. A. SCOTT  
(SRN, health visitor),  
89 Charterhouse Road,  
Orpington, Kent.  
May 16.

From Mr Michael R. Hanson

Sir, Nurses rightly enjoy a good deal of public sympathy and support, but they all too often seek a protection and immunity from inevitable developments which betray a lack of confidence and robust professionalism. In recent years the Royal College of Nursing has opposed the introduction of professional management into the NHS, the Government's care in the community policy and its more recent wide-ranging reforms.

The college's reactions to such policy initiatives have usually been so swift as to suggest that PR and media considerations have ranked higher than mature professional judgement.

In 1979 the college contemplated "professional action", to express anger over pay and conditions, to be distinct from "industrial action" and to be designed to not affect patient care. That path was not followed, and in the assessment of Trevor Clay, the college's former General Secretary, it was a fortunate decision.

As he said: "If the RCN had gone down that road, the public would not have drawn the fine distinction; professional action would have been seen as industrial action... but the RCN has developed a power base for nursing outside industrial action."

Today's nursing leaders face a formidable array of challenges: to make community care effective, to maintain professional unity and integrity given the fragmentation within the NHS, to develop the extended role of the nurse and implement professional updating, and to look at the ethical issues of rationing in health care.

They will also have to encourage commissioning authorities to articulate the health care needs of their areas, to argue about the totality of

health care resources, and to see the Pay Review Body evolve to monitor rewards in the NHS and the private sector and to provide data to those involved in pay determination.

The RCN's contribution to these issues will be harmed if it goes down the path of industrial action, and to pretend that this will not affect patients is pure sophistry.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL R. HANSON  
(Deputy General Secretary,  
Royal College of Nursing, 1987-89,  
10 Kingswood Place, SE13,  
May 17.

From Dr P. E. Barley

Sir, If local pay for nurses is accepted this will mean an even greater imbalance of health care for patients than exists at present. Health trusts that are less wealthy will not be able to offer the better rates of pay of the wealthier trusts and will not fill their nursing vacancies.

National pay, with weighting for London, at least ensures that money does not stop nurses applying for jobs in the less well-known hospitals.

I hope that patients who live away from the major medical centres will support their nurses — while they still have them.

Yours faithfully,  
P. E. BARLEY,  
The Haven, Church Path,  
Great Mongeham, Deal, Kent.  
May 16.

From Mr John Junkin

Sir, In recent months innumerable "justifications" have been published for the high salaries paid to executives of the utilities, the essence appearing to be that if you want the best you must pay for it.

If there is one group of people to which that criterion applies, it must be nurses. A referendum should verify this with one question: "Which would you prefer, a state-of-the-art musical gas cooker or your life?"

Surely we must pay nurses what they ask; we could never afford to pay them what they deserve.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN JUNKIN,  
Jason's Glebe,  
Wendover, Buckinghamshire.  
May 16.

## Artistic reunion

From Mr Paul Gotch

Sir, John Russell Taylor's review (Arts, May 16) of the Thomas Cooper Gotch retrospective exhibition at Kettering, headed "Puzzlingly neglected", was encouraging. It was partly this apparent neglect that spurred 52 of the artist's descendants to travel to his home town and see these paintings.

The oldest of us was nearly eighty and the youngest a babe-in-arms. Whatever Gotch's symbols or puzzles may have been, it was clear that the model for many of the girls he portrayed must have been his daughter, the baby's great-great-grandmother; a cousin recognised her mother playing the cello; I saw a sketch of my father as a baby; and another elderly cousin found a portrait of himself, aged four. The four generations gaps were lessened, on what was a rare occasion and an illuminating experience, for which we are all grateful.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL GOTCH,  
15A Copse Hill, Wimbledon, SW20.  
May 17.

## Comings and goings

From Mr James H. Longworth

Sir, Mr M. J. D. Boyle asks (letter, May 11) other letters, May 13, 15) when did the expression "I see what you are driving at" give way to "I see where you are coming from"? I imagine that this was about the time that "I'll bring you up to date" was overtaken by "I'll bring you up to speed". Both developments seem unhealthy preoccupied with life in the fast lane.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES H. LONGWORTH,  
30 Jew Tree Avenue,  
Grimsargh, Preston, Lancashire.

## Crossed line

From Mr Laurence Hatchwell

Sir, Lord Beloff's dismissal (letter, May 17) of the comparison between Keble College and a French railway station ("C'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas la gare") reminds me of a much more apt parallel which in the early 1970s I recall finding inscribed amongst graffiti on the polychromatic brickwork of its Keble Road frontage. "This", passers-by were informed, "is a college, not a Fair Isle sweater".

Yours faithfully,  
LAURENCE HATCHWELL,  
60 Gibson's Hill, Norbury, SW16.

From Mr Charles Miskin

Sir, There may be a dispute between Lord Beloff and Matthew Parris as to which of Worcester and Keble colleges was attributed the Balalaclava pun. But will they confirm that murmured once in the beer cellar at Worcester were the words "C'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas lager"?

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES MISKIN,  
36 Essex Street, WC2.

## School waste

From Mr P. M. Burrows

Sir, Sir John Acland's letter of May 15, deploring the waste of DfE money on needless documents for teachers and governors, comes as a breath of fresh air. Last term, here in Surrey, governors and teachers were sent a glossy brochure setting out the objectives which all school heads worthy of their salt should have held ever since their entry into the teaching profession. In line with modern trends, whereby even earthworms have natural rights, each of its laudable proposed aims was introduced with the words "Every learner is entitled to..." (meaning, of course, "It is desirable that...").

We pointed out to the local education authority that most of the aims could be more simply achieved through more frequent informal, friendly visits from educational advisers. The result has been the promise of a new and revised edition.

Yours faithfully,  
P. M. BURROWS,  
41 Harrison Close, Reigate, Surrey.

From the Reverend J. W. Ratings

Sir, May I add to Sir John Acland's justified complaint by drawing attention to another waster of time and money at local level? The governors of

all schools must produce a report for the annual general meeting of the school, which is circulated to all parents and guardians of pupils, normally at this time of the year.

This takes much time and money (especially in secondary schools) on the part of the governors and administrative staff, yet it is abundantly clear from the AGM attendance figures that these reports remain unread by the vast majority of parents. Although they are not quite as boring or irrelevant as Ofsted reports following school inspections, the necessity to send a copy to every parent should be scrapped, and they should be issued only to those who attend.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN W. RATINGS,  
The Vicarage, Wargrave,  
Reading, Berkshire.

From Dr D. C. Lewis

Sir, Sir John Acland's excellent and plain-speaking letter could be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the health service. In our practice in Shropshire, the shredder has become as useful a tool as any piece of medical equipment.

Yours sincerely,  
D. C. LEWIS,  
Breidden, Upper House Farm Drive,  
Alberbury, Shropshire, Shropshire.

## Carry-on luggage

From Mrs J. Carlebach

Sir, Your correspondence about carry-on luggage for air travellers (letters, April 19, May 9) leads me to doubt the sense in the reorganisation of Gatwick North Terminal.

May I ask the BAA to explain the use of all the shops in the departure area?

Having checked in at British Airways with my one piece of hand luggage last time, I rather fancied a skirt and jacket, to which I wanted to add a matching blouse, then shoes and handbag and a large square woollen stole, as well as my usual whisky, chocolates and smoked salmon.

How are purchases in the duty-free area to be carried on the aircraft — or are we not supposed to buy anything?

Yours on my way to the departure lounge,  
MYRNA CARLEBACH,  
Hirschgasse 5,  
69120 Heidelberg, Germany.  
May 9.

## Thames view

From Mr Geoff Walker

Sir, Simon Jenkins states "the only real fusing of architecture and water in London is Quinlan Terry's Richmond town centre" (article, May 13). Is he not overlooking what is arguably the finest architecture on the river, the Royal Naval College at Greenwich?

With so little architecture of note on the Thames can we not preserve this fabulous piece of our national heritage? Greenwich council wish to build

a sunken bypass in front of it and have applied to the Millennium Commission for funding. Our fear is that the works will irrevocably damage the "Canaleno view" and that the council may be well on the way to fulfilling Simon Jenkins's exhortation: "The chief contribution to beautifying the Thames would be demolition not construction".

Yours faithfully,  
G. A. E. WALKER,  
Save Our Shoreline campaign,  
Xanadu, Rodborough Common,  
Stroud, Gloucestershire.











In a two-page report, Craig Seton looks at Bath's strategy to take the city into the 21st century as a thriving place to live and work

Exciting challenges, fresh opportunities and some uncertainties confront the heritage city of Bath as it develops a strategy to assure its economic prosperity in the new millennium.

For all the outward appearance of general affluence in their city, the people of Bath have become accustomed to unpalatable evidence of its industrial and commercial decline. Empty shops, redundant industrial sites and an unemployment rate of about 8 per cent — compared with 3.3 per cent in 1991 — are testimony to the impact of the recession.

Bath is facing the dismal prospect of its biggest employer, the Ministry of Defence, relocating as many as 5,000 white-collar jobs from its city-based Procurement Executive and Naval Support Command establishments to north Bristol, hitting at the heart of the local economy.

The threat to Bath, traditionally reliant on the service sector, has galvanised the Liberal Democrat-controlled city council into drafting a comprehensive strategy for economic regeneration. The proposals suggest that Bath should strive to encourage small and medium-sized, knowledge-based enterprises to grow in specialist service-sector clusters that utilise the most modern communications and information technologies. However, the economic strategy eschews an uncontrolled rush for growth.

Bath was awarded a royal charter in 1189 and is the only complete city in the United Kingdom to hold the status of a Unesco World Heritage Site in recognition of the remains of its early Roman settlement — Aquae Sulis — and the superb, honey-coloured architecture of the Georgian period, which attract two million visitors a year. The council says it will protect the green belt and maintain controls on unsuitable industrial and office development.

Through the city council and other groups, Bath has also put forward a programme of five projects to celebrate the millennium that it is hoped will attract funds from the National Lottery distributing bodies. They include the revival of part of the city near its 18th-century core as a 21st-century quarter of

## Master plan for the new millennium



Fine buildings in Great Pulteney Street and, right, Bath Abbey's courtyard, flanked by the Roman Bath Museum

contemporary architecture. This would incorporate a Millennium Centre catering for electronic-media and conference activities and other buildings for cultural industries and commercial enterprises.

A further plan aims to restore the city as an active spa, with health, leisure and therapy facilities being revived. Other projects envisage the creation of seven new or restored public squares, parks

and gardens in a riverside "necklace", the introduction of new urban transport systems and electronic networks and a series of neighbourhood schemes designed by local communities.

David Pratley, the council's director of tourism, leisure and economic development, says: "This represents a chance to envisage the kind of city in which we want future generations to live and to

make decisive and long-lasting improvements to the city's sustainability, economy and environment."

The council is being urged on by members of the city's business community, who believe that time is running out for Bath to activate policies for its economic revival. However, this period of change coincides with local government reorganisation. Avon County Council is being abol-

ished and, from next April, Bath City Council will join with neighbouring Wansdyke District Council to form a new unitary authority, Bath and North East Somerset.

The new, larger authority will have much wider powers and extra responsibilities, and it will have to make crucial decisions about the important plans for Bath's economic revival. Michael Earp, the chairman of the campaigning Bath Development Group, says it is imperative that local government reorganisation in the area does not derail the proposals for the city's economic regeneration.

The development group was formed by business people last year to push for investment in the city and measures to help local businesses to expand. It says many of its ideas have been adopted by the city council. Mr Earp adds: "Bath has been complacent in the past: it has a good tourist and retail industry, but the loss of valuable white-collar jobs in the Ministry of Defence is likely to be unprecedented. A kick-start is needed now to get the economy moving."

A £11 million project is under way to restore the spas of Bath. Its use as a centre for hot springs, health therapy and leisure dates back to Roman times and earlier, and the city was at its most fashionable for the taking of its waters in the Georgian era.

A private company, Spa Restorations (Bath), set up in 1993, is seeking more than £5 million from the Millennium Fund towards the cost of the restoration which, city council officials say, will do more to boost the city's already huge tourism industry than any other project.

The operation of the spa facilities was suspended in 1978 at the time of a health scare and no scheme has yet succeeded in bringing them back to life, although the thermal waters still bubble up from an underground aquifer at the rate of a quarter of a million gallons a day.

Four spa buildings are scheduled to be reopened, including the 18th-century Old Royal Bath and the Beaz Street Bath. The development company is investigating ways to fund the remainder of the project's cost and hopes that by the end of 1997 the first of the revived facilities will be operating. Natural spa pools, Roman bathing and Turkish baths will be on offer.

Jonathan Ogden, Spa Restorations' product and marketing director, says many of the two million visitors who visit Bath annually seek out the spa facilities and are disappointed they no longer

An £11 million scheme is in the pipeline to revive the fashion for taking the waters

operate. Studies suggest that the restored spa buildings would attract 400,000 visitors a year from home and abroad. "Reviving the spa would put the heart back into the city. The spa and thermal waters have always been central to its development and prosperity," he says.

There are almost 5,000 listed buildings in Bath and its architectural gems, including the Royal Crescent, Bath Abbey and the Circus, draw visitors from around the world. Its tourism industry is estimated to be worth up to £200 million annually to the local economy and supports the equivalent of more than 5,000 full-time jobs.

Paul Simons, the tourism bureau's executive director, says the industry is an integral part of the city's economic development strategy. He believes that Bath council is the first in Britain to co-opt representatives of the private sector tourist industry on to its tourism committee and to grant them voting rights. "It shows it is not a case of the council fighting the private sector. We want a consensus approach and a united strategy showing that tourism is

important and has to be managed effectively," he says.

Mr Simons says Bath could cope with up to three million visitors annually without damaging the Roman and Georgian heritage that makes it one of Britain's foremost tourist attractions. However, he adds that the aim is to encourage more visitors to come during the non-peak months between October and May and to ensure they stay overnight in Bath. Market research shows that at present seven of every ten visitors are day visitors, including many tourists from overseas who "do" Bath on a day trip from their base in London.

The bureau wants the city to become more appealing to visitors as a base for trips to attractions in the South and South West, including Salisbury, Stonehenge, the Cotswolds, Longleat and Somerset.

There are also plans to increase Bath's appeal to arts enthusiasts. The Bath International Music Festival, which has been held for more than 40 years and starts today, is being co-ordinated by a festival trust, a body with charitable status, working with the city council. The festival, facing claims that its dedication to classical music was elitist, has recently undergone changes to include events with a wider appeal.

In July the city is hosting the European Youth Olympics, an event of ten sports involving 2,500 athletes aged between 12 and 18.

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# Industry and education flow together

**A commercial and cultural area is being planned alongside the River Avon**

Urgent plans drawn up for Bath's economic development into the 21st century have created a strategy to attract investment and spur the growth of local businesses.

The draft plan, prepared by the Liberal Democrat-led Bath City Council in consultation with the business community, was approved by the authority in February. The proposals, aimed at repairing the damage of the recession and minimising the impact of Ministry of Defence job losses, include the setting up of technology-based enterprises which the council believes can flourish in the midst of the city's architectural and historical heritage.

Small to medium-sized enterprises in the service sector and areas of public administration are key targets, as are growth in printing, publishing, architecture, conservation and crafts. Healthcare will become important with the planned reopening of traditional spa treatments.

However, uncertainties remain because of the abolition of Avon County Council and the merging of the Bath authority with the neighbouring, largely rural, Wansdyke District Council from next April. This month's local govern-



A cruiser passes Pulteney Bridge and the weir on its way along the River Avon

ment elections for the "shadow" new authority left no party in overall control.

Bill Richardson, Bath council's business development executive, says that Bath council will seek the support of Wansdyke as the programme for the city will be a crucial part of the new authority's work. He believes an important element of this is a plan to create a new "21st-century quarter" for Bath alongside the River Avon, composed of industries, education and training facilities, a cultural quarter and some housing.

This landscaped development would incorporate contemporary architecture that would complement and not detract from the city's Georgian heritage. Mr Richardson said effective land use was

essential to achieve economic revival. The city council owns a property portfolio worth an estimated £150 million, including 60 per cent of the city centre which has many listed buildings.

He said the council was investigating sites that could be used to create new businesses, but added: "We have to work in a World Heritage Site, [conferred on Bath by Unesco] and therefore we must find a way to marry the need for conservation, the concerns for our heritage and the economic needs of the city."

Another site, the Avon Street car park, is being earmarked as a possible site for a Millennium Centre. This idea was put forward by the Bath Development Group, set up by business people last year to

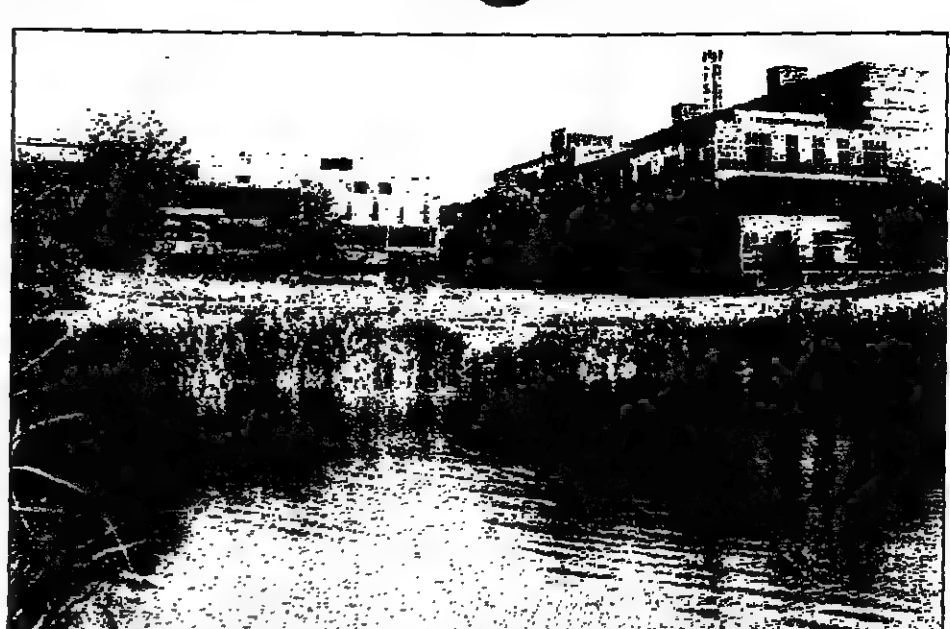
**How the city's university and business community help each other**

The University of Bath, founded in 1966, is a small, modern institution, now being expanded on its site at Claverton Down. It has a strong record in teaching and research and aims to increase the number of its undergraduates by about 25 per cent to 5,000 by the end of the decade.

The university has become strong in a wide range of science and technology subjects, and has forged strong links with industry and commerce, and with the local community. It is committed to offering students a practical element in their education, notably through a programme of sandwich courses, which allows them to gain experience in industry before returning for their final year.

The university's prospectus says: "Having grown up in the age of technology, Bath has been well-placed to respond to the changing demands placed on education by commerce and industry. The university puts great emphasis on education for the real world — an emphasis reflected in the consistently high demand for its graduates."

That academic record is now well established and the university was ranked among the top ten UK universities in



Students relaxing on the lawns of Bath University, which was opened in 1966

The Times Good University Guide, 1993. In the same year, it was ranked fourth in another league table after 13 per cent of its students gained first-class degrees.

Three of its 15 departments — mechanical engineering, architecture and management — have been rated excellent in external assessments, and last year the sports development and recreation department was invited to set up a South West Institute of Sports Medicine.

Professor V. David Vandellinde, an American, has been Vice-Chancellor since 1992, when he left the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He says the institution has a tradition of being in tune with industry, especially through research, and he hopes it will increasingly build links with local businesses as the council develops its strategy to encourage investment from inside and outside the city.

He says that the university

gains enormously from its presence in a city so rich in heritage as Bath, but points out that there is a considerable spin-off for the local community. An assessment by the university estimates that its financial contribution alone is worth almost £50 million a year to the local economy.

The university also employs about 2,000 people, including just under 400 academic staff, making it one of the biggest employers in the city.

## Business park for beauty spot

**Factories and offices can thrive alongside the city's heritage, say developers**

A business park aimed at expanding local businesses and attracting companies looking for a prime relocation site in the South West has been given the go-ahead on the outskirts of Bath.

The business campus, a development by Bath-based Marples Developments, is the first modern, commercial project of its kind in the city, which has suffered a shortage of purpose-built accommodation for business use.

The campus is to be built on a £6 million seven-acre former hospital site in a designated area of natural beauty at Claverton Down on the outskirts of Bath.

Alasdair Thomson, managing



An artist's drawing of the business campus at Claverton Down on the edge of Bath

director of Marples, says the project, which will cost about £9 million and create 100,000 sq ft of accommodation, is vital to stimulate business in the city. "When we

were preparing the campus project, we realised that Bath had an almost invisible profile. It has wonderful tourism and retail facilities, but in business terms it has not made much of an impact," he says.

Mr Thomson says the city's tough planning regime was aimed at conservation and had seriously constrained office development, except in certain circumstances. He believes, however, that business can thrive alongside Bath's heritage. "There has to be a compromise: we have to accept that we do not destroy what we have, but we also have to move on."

His firm has joined forces with The Bath Chronicle newspaper and a wide range of business leaders to mount a Bath Means Business campaign. This is designed to counter the damage of the recession by raising the city's business profile to attract new firms and investment, and to ensure that more is done to help existing companies to grow.

The business campus is expected to get under way later this year. The project is scheduled to be a phased development of four high-quality buildings providing larger accommodation in the range of 17,000 to 30,000 sq ft and individual floors and offices from 3,000 to 12,000 sq ft. It

will include an enclosed central courtyard, landscaped open areas and parking for 400 cars.

The campus has B1 planning consent, which Mr Thomson says allows for new offices, research and development facilities and high-tech enterprises. "There will be no smoke stacks," he insists.


He believes a significant attraction of the business campus will be its proximity to the university, raising the possibility of companies harnessing the institution's research facilities, or "spin-off" enterprises from the university locating on the business site.

Bob Chapman, partner in the Bath office of King Sturge, commercial property agents, says the go-ahead for the campus is a welcome sign that the council is serious about encouraging economic development.

He says that at the height of the recession 110 of Bath's stock of 700 shops and retail outlets were empty. That figure is now down to 30 or 40, and some premium rental deals are being done. But more action is needed to support Bath's status as a regional retail centre and further to encourage business activity and office development. There are numerous buildings erected in the 1960s, he feels, that could be pulled down and replaced by new, purpose-built commercial premises with parking.

"Some of the policies of the council are very much geared to preservation and I think they can be softened or watered down to encourage business interests. If you wanted a 10,000 sq ft office building with on-site parking in the central area, you simply would not be able to find one," Mr Chapman says.

He adds: "Bath must have a broad economic base: it cannot simply be a tourist city. It needs a very sophisticated form of management that will give economic development a bigger priority."



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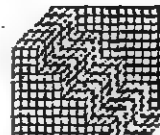
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THE GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE  
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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY MAY 19 1995

RM

## London Life quits pensions as sales fall

By CAROLINE MERRELL

LONDON LIFE is to pull out of selling life insurance and pensions, becoming the first casualty of the sharp downturn in sales of those products.

The £2 billion company, which is owned by AMP, the Australian life insurance group, has suffered such a fall in business volumes that the cost of marketing products now outweighs any profits the company could make.

In common with many other life insurance companies, London Life has seen sales tumble because public confidence in the industry has been severely damaged by the regulatory report on the mis-selling of personal pensions.

The company said that the decision to withdraw from the market was in the best interests of its 94,000 policyholders. London Life will now

operate as a closed fund within the AMP group of companies, which include Pearl Assurance.

The Personal Investment Authority, the insurance regulator, last month announced plans to compensate hundreds of thousands of people who had been wrongly encouraged to buy personal pensions.

Jim Divers, London Life chief operating officer and one of 450 of a staff of 600 who will lose their jobs in the shift away from pensions and life insurance, denied that the company was involved with mis-selling personal pensions, but acknowledged: "The problems with pensions has had an effect on consumers."

London Life's new business volumes fell 12 per cent to £132 million last year, while new business has declined 25 per cent in the first quarter. Nearly half of the company's new business is pension-related.

Mr Divers said: "The cost of acquiring the business was greater than the benefits that could be gained. In the end, this would begin to have an impact on existing policyholders."

Figures released this week by the Association of British Insurers showed that the sales of pensions and life insurance across the industry have declined dramatically in the first quarter.

New yearly premiums for life insurance and pensions business totalled £522 million in the first quarter of this year, a 21 per cent fall on last year.

London Life had considered a number of options, after a review by Bacon & Woodrow, consulting actuaries, found that sales were unlikely to recover to the level needed to

support the sales and marketing infrastructure.

Mr Divers said that management had not opted for selling the company because it was not thought to be in the best interests of policyholders. On the job losses, the company hoped that most of the redundancies would be on a voluntary basis.

Yesterday's announcement marks the final chapter in the troubled history of London Life. Before the 1987 stock market crash, the company thrived by selling products to high net worth individuals. It did not pay commission on its policies.

However, after the crash the company suffered from falling free assets, and it was forced to look for a financially strong parent to take it over.

The closure of London Life could be the start of a wave of rationalisation in the life insurance market, as companies suffer from flagging sales and the introduction of disclosure rules at the beginning of the year.

The new rules mean that companies have to tell customers for the first time how much of their premiums are being eaten up by charges.

Mike Wadsworth, of Watsons, the actuaries, said: "If a company continues to trade but at a loss, the costs of maintaining this infrastructure eat into the returns available for existing customers."

"We have not seen the last of the contraction in the industry, especially as the insurance arms of the building societies are not yet up to full strength."

Pennington, page 25



Police monitor demonstrators at Shell's AGM in London yesterday. Pennington, page 25.

## Arrests and Shell fire at the AGM

SIX people were arrested at Shell's annual meeting yesterday as police tried to prevent protesters gaining access to the oil company's meeting in London's Queen Elizabeth II conference centre (Carl

Mortished writes). Shell Out, a protest group, alleges environmental damage by Shell in Nigeria and that the company is colluding in human rights abuses by the Nigerian Government. Inside the

centre, John Jennings, chairman of Shell, denied the allegations. He said Shell was spending \$100 million on improvements and an independent environmental assessment in Nigeria.

## Figures spoil case for rate rise

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FALLING high street sales for the second successive month, coupled with a further recovery in the value of sterling, has weakened the argument for a base rate rise next month.

Retail sales volumes fell 0.2 per cent in April, a much weaker result than the increase of 0.4 per cent that the City had expected. In addition, the fall in March, originally reported by the Central Statistical Office as 0.1 per cent, was revised to a fall of 0.3 per cent.

Economists who argued that March's weak figure suggested problems with seasonally adjusting for Easter conceded yesterday that sales growth is definitely on a downward trend in spite of contrary evidence from a buoyant survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

Volumes were up only 0.8 per cent against April last year, while March saw a year-on-year rise of 1.6 per cent.

The pound shrugged off the news, gaining particularly against the mark. Sterling's effective index closed at 85.1, after the 84.5 close of Wednesday, undermining the Bank of England's wish for a rate rise at the June 7 monetary meeting.

Economists at NatWest Markets said: "The Prime Minister should expect to hear the Chancellor singing in his bath." Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, refused to raise rates at the May monetary meeting, apparently against the advice of the Bank.

The money markets rallied, and a half-point rise in rates is no longer priced in. Short sterling futures pointed to a base rate level of 6.87 per cent, just above the current 6.75 per cent, suggesting that the markets no longer believe that rates will rise next month. They have priced in one half-point rise by September.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

|                 |          |           |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| FT-SE 100       | 3285.8   | (-11.8)   |
| Yield           | 4.10%    |           |
| FT-SE All share | 1817.00  | (-3.79)   |
| Nikkei          | 18172.58 | (-138.79) |
| New York        | 4382.17  | (-30.43)* |
| Dow Jones       | 824.56   | (-2.41)*  |
| S&P Composite   |          |           |

### US RATE

|               |       |         |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| Federal Funds | 6%    | (5%+)   |
| Long Bond     | 108%  | (108%+) |
| Yield         | 8.89% | (8.87%) |

### EURO CURRENCY

|                 |        |          |
|-----------------|--------|----------|
| 3-mth Interbank | 6 1/4% | (6 1/4%) |
| Life long gilt  | 106%   | (106%)   |

### STOCK MARKET

|           |         |           |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| New York  | 1,884.8 | (1,570.0) |
| London    | 1,884.8 | (1,570.0) |
| Paris     | 2,273.1 | (2,253.5) |
| Frankfurt | 6,079.0 | (6,089.0) |
| Berlin    | 1,000.0 | (1,000.0) |
| Yen       | 136.57  | (136.54)  |
| £ Index   | 85.1    | (84.5)    |

### STOCK MARKET

|           |         |           |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| London    | 1,438.7 | (1,445.0) |
| Paris     | 6,172.8 | (6,115.0) |
| Frankfurt | 1,518.0 | (1,205.0) |
| Yen       | 87.50   | (88.75)   |
| £ Index   | 80.5    | (80.7)    |

### STOCK MARKET

|                 |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| Tokyo close Yen | 67.30 |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|

### STOCK MARKET

|                    |         |       |
|--------------------|---------|-------|
| Brent 15-day (Aug) | \$18.08 | (n/a) |
|--------------------|---------|-------|

### STOCK MARKET

|              |         |           |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| London close | \$82.85 | (\$83.75) |
|--------------|---------|-----------|

\* denotes midday trading price

## Attack

British Gas, poised for a battle with shareholders over high pay, yesterday reported 2,400 voluntary redundancies for the first quarter and said that a further 8,000 were expected this year. During the first quarter, warmer weather and the continuing loss of market share because of deregulation ate into profits. Report 25, Tempus 26

## Defence

Vosper Thornycroft, one of the last remaining warship builders, is ready to defend its independence if the loser of the battle for VSEL becomes hostile. Page 28

## Trafalgar sinks £48m into the red

By CARL MORTISHED

TRAFALGAR HOUSE is sending a management task force to investigate every aspect of its business after incurring losses of £48 million for the half year.

Trafalgar's failed bid for Northern Electric cost the company more than £17 million in fees, offset by a gain of £5.3 million from the controversial contracts for differences with Swiss Bank Corporation. Exceptional write-offs of £28 million included the refit of the QE2 liner, which cost £7.5 million in compensation.

Poor results from Trafalgar's core engineering, construction and shipping businesses delivered an operating loss of £14.9 million. Nigel Rich, Trafalgar's chief executive blamed the company's problems on a history of poor management controls and gave warning of further restructuring charges, which would involve asset sales. "It will be at least two or three years before the company is generating satisfactory returns to shareholders," he predicted.

Cunard, the luxury cruise line, incurred losses of £6.9 million due to low occupancy on the ships and John Olsen, Cunard's chief executive, has resigned. Cunard's assets are in the books at £400 million.

The operating losses were compounded by a £113 million increase in working capital, which left Trafalgar with a net cash outflow of £116 million. There is again no dividend.

Cunard departure, page 1  
Tempus, page 26

## S&N reaches brewery deal with Courage

By MARTIN WALLER

SCOTTISH & Newcastle has finally tied up an agreement to buy the brewing operations of Courage, a deal under negotiation for a year, creating the biggest brewer in Britain and outstripping Bass, the present market leader.

The announcement of the deal, at a price of £425 million, as well as a raft of other payments over a period of 10 years, is the Australian owner of Courage, left the brewing industry fearing hundreds of job losses.

S&N said it would be looking for £40 million of cost savings a year from the merged business. Brian Stewart, chief executive, would not rule out brewery closures, although he emphasised that most of the savings would be obtained from cutting distribution, which accounted for 75 per cent of both businesses' costs.

The Transport & General Workers Union cautiously welcomed the move. But Brian Revell, national secretary for

food and drink, added: "Clearly, there is a danger of loss of jobs through rationalisation." The announcement of the merger, delayed until this week's ruling on the prices charged by brewers to their landlords, is certain to prompt a row in the industry over whether the deal, like virtually every big industry combination over the past decade, should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Stewart said the merger was not inherently monopolistic in that it would offer consumers more choice by allowing each company's brands to be marketed more widely, and should, therefore, be spared a true-consumers MMC reference. But the OFT is likely to be heavily pressed by rival brewers to refer the deal, which creates a business with a quarter of the British beer market. "It's the biggest merger ever, and over the last

five years every merger has been referred to the MMC," one industry leader said.

S&N is funding the purchase with a two-stage, one-for-seven rights issue at 475p to raise £354 million, two-fifths payable up front and the balance if the deal is done. The shares edged back 7p to 539p in response.

The group has also put an estimate on pre-tax profits for the financial year just closed, to end-April, of at least £262 million, a rise from £221.8 million. S&N expects a final dividend of 12.05p that raises the total from 17.04p to 18.23p. The sale of Courage has cleared the way for Foster's Brewing Group to get on with expanding its operations elsewhere in the world. Ted Kunkel, chief executive, indicated yesterday that a major acquisition could be on the cards in a matter of months.

Elbs lager bid, page 25  
Pennington, page 25

## Telegraph shares slump

SHARES in The Telegraph, the newspaper publisher, plunged 59p to 380p in response to the surprise withdrawal of a plan by Conrad Black, the Canadian majority owner of the business, to buy back the shares he does not own (Martin Waller writes).

Mr Black's decision, after independent directors of The Telegraph rejected an offer from his American Publishing Company of Chicago, came late on Wednesday night after both British and Canadian markets were closed.

He is thought to have offered in the region of 450p a share. A study commissioned by the directors priced the business at about £1 a share higher than he was prepared to pay.

Under City rules, Mr Black can return if he again decides to buy the 41.5 per cent of The Telegraph he does not own, as no formal offer was made. But sources within Mr Black's camp were making it clear last night that no such course of action was planned.

## Calls to redundancy take toll on BT

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM reported a dip in earnings yesterday as redundancy charges mounted and hinted that shareholders no longer should assume that strong dividend growth is secure.

Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, also disclosed that his bonus for the year to March 30 declined by 38 per cent, from £185,000 to £115,000. His salary, however, will rise by 3.2 per cent to £490,000, in July. This gives a total remuneration this year of £599,000, compared with £663,000 last year.

BT reported a pre-tax profit of £2.66 billion, down 3.4 per cent from the previous year. Earnings per share declined from 28.5p to 27.5p, while turnover

increased 1.6 per cent to £13.89 billion, largely because of explosive growth in the company's mobile-communications businesses, dominated by 60 per cent-owned Celtel. The results were in line with City forecasts.

Continued price cuts, imposed by OfTel, the industry regulator, and a redundancy charge of £820 million, compared with £517 million, in the previous year, are the main factors behind the slump in profits. BT shed 18,500 employees in the year, taking total employment down to 137,500.

The company will pay a final dividend of 10.65p on September 18. That makes a total dividend of 17.7p, a 6 per cent rise over the previous year. Sir Iain said: "Future dividends will continue to be

influenced by the effects of competition and regulation in the UK together with investment needs and opportunities in the UK and overseas."

BT now considers the cable-telephony companies, which are taking about 50,000 customers away from it each month, not Mercury Communications, its greatest competitive threat. On the regulatory front, BT expects to fight a losing war on issues such as number portability and interconnection rates.

Sir Iain said there would be no comment on why his bonus fell so much further than BT's earnings until the board committee on executive remuneration releases its review on June 8.

Tempus, page 26



Vallance: bonus fell

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## Iceland to create 5,000 jobs

By Our City Staff

ICELAND GROUP, the supermarket chain, plans to create 5,000 jobs by the end of the century.

A total of 1,000 full-time and part-time jobs are being created in the current year by the opening of at least 55 stores, 20 of which have already been opened. The retailer opened 55 stores last year and expects to continue at a similar rate until it has 1,500 stores, compared with the current 723.

Malcolm Walker, chairman, said potential sites had been identified and that the company's expansion plan was not restricted by planning obstacles, given the mainly high street location of their planned sites.

Mr Walker told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that the company's dividend will be increased 25 per cent in the current year to 5.25p a share, followed by similar increases in the successive couple of years.

## Abbey set to target N&P rival if bid fails

By Patricia Teahan, Banking Correspondent

ABBEY NATIONAL would seek talks with another building society if its £1.1 billion attempt to take over National & Provincial Building Society fails next month.

Abbey submits its proposals to N&P today. Lord Tugendhat, Abbey's chairman, is sending Wendy Syer, his assistant, by train to the N&P's head office in Bradford, to deliver the documents, addressed to Lord Shuttleworth, N&P chairman.

Analysts have estimated that Abbey will seek a deal that values N&P at more than £1.1 billion, or £650 per eligible member. Abbey has refused to comment on the value of its bid other than to say that it would be prepared to pay "a significant premium" to net asset value. John Fry, Abbey's deputy chairman, said: "If ultimately we are not successful in acquiring N&P it is not the be-all and end-all of our strategy. We can continue with it quite happily."

When asked what Abbey would do if the N&P talks failed, Mr Fry said: "We have always said that the right building society at the right price would be of interest but have no other firm plans."

Abbey's aim is to raise the share of its pre-tax profits from non-traditional sources to 40 per cent by 1997. The bank argues that it can do so even if it achieves its aim of taking over N&P, as the society would provide 3 million customers to whom Abbey could sell its products.

Abbey's public statement of its intentions towards N&P appears to have given greater

speed to the potential restructuring of the industry. Ian Harley, finance director, said that the industry is consolidating. He said that 14 mortgage lenders do 85 per cent of the new mortgage business in the UK.

As at least six building societies are now talking to each other, he expects the leading mortgage lenders to be in single figures in the next few years.

Analysts said yesterday that the Nationwide, the second biggest building society, and societies based in the North of England would be the most likely targets for talks with Abbey if the N&P bid failed.

N&P interpreted Abbey's attempt to hold takeover talks as hostile after movements in the Abbey share price prompted the bank to issue a Stock Exchange announcement about its intentions.

The building society has rejected Abbey's advances three times since 1986. However, Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, agreed to reconsider Abbey's proposals after a meeting with Peter Birch, its chairman, at the beginning of the month. N&P sent out an information pack and asked Abbey to respond with formal proposals within three weeks.

N&P is expected to see what Abbey is offering before continuing discussions with other building societies about a possible merger and conversion to bank status. It has made approaches to Alliance & Leicester, to the Nationwide and to the Woolwich building societies.



John Hoerner says that in spite of the turnaround, there was still "a long way to go"

## Profits soar at Burton

By Sarah Bagnall

SHARES in Burton Group moved strongly ahead yesterday as the clothing retailer revealed that each of its multiple chains had made a profit in the first half of the year — the first time for at least five years.

John Hoerner, chief executive, tried to play down the strong turnaround in the fortunes of the multiple chains, which include Burtons, Doro-

thy Perkins and Top Shop/Top Man. "We don't think we have got it cracked yet. We have got a long way to go still."

Pre-tax profits rose from £42.4 million to £67.4 million in the 26 weeks to May 18. The multiples made a profit of £15.8 million, compared with a loss of £1.8 million last time. Debenhams, the department store chain, contributed profits of £51.6 million, up from £44.2 million.

The increase in profits was achieved in spite of flat sales

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Japan's trade gap with US rises again

JAPAN, target of punitive US sanctions against its car exports, increased its politically sensitive trade surplus with America in April for the sixth month in a row. The surplus climbed 3.2 per cent to \$4.52 billion compared with the same month last year, reflecting a 15 per cent increase in exports to \$11.1 billion, while imports, sucked in by the strong yen, gained 26 per cent to \$6.6 billion.

At the same time, US figures showed a 30 per cent surge in the US trade deficit with Japan in March to \$6.14 billion from \$4.7 billion in February. The bilateral deficit with Japan accounted for two-thirds of the overall US trade deficit of \$9.12 billion. The second largest bilateral deficit was with China, another country with which the US is in a trade dispute. Japan's overall surplus narrowed to \$10.9 billion in April from \$11.1 billion in the same month last year, in spite of the dramatic fall in the dollar against the yen. Imports were up 33 per cent, while exports grew 22 per cent.

### Deputy to fill in at OFT

JEFFREY PRESTON becomes acting director-general of Fair Trading from tomorrow after the departure of Sir Bryan Carberg, the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday. Mr Preston joined the OFT as deputy director-general in 1990. Sir Bryan, appointed Director-General in 1992, is leaving to become secretary general to the International Accounting Standards Committee. A permanent successor to Sir Bryan will be announced later. While in office Mr Preston will have the full powers of the Director-General.

### One Up store chain sold

PHILIP GREEN, a controversial retailing star in the 1980s, has made his second purchase in six months by combining forces with Associated British Foods to acquire One Up, the low-priced clothing and homewares chain. Precis, a joint venture between Owen Owen, the department store group, and ABF, has acquired the 16-strong chain from Storehouse, the Mothercare to BHS group, for up to £20 million. The 500 staff will join Precis. Owen Owen was acquired by Mr Green last December for an undisclosed sum.

### RTZ in new ventures

RTZ, the world's largest mining group, is to develop two new mines. A \$233 million high grade nickel deposit in the Minas Gerais state in Brazil, and a silver, gold, zinc and lead mine on Admiralty Island, Alaska, are planned. The nickel deposit has an estimated life of 20 years, with ore reserves totalling 10.3 million tonnes. Commissioning of the open pit will be in 1998, followed by underground development. In Alaska, RTZ and Hecla Mining will redevelop the Greens Creek deposit.

### Avesta profits advance

AVESTA SHEFFIELD, the Swedish stainless steelmaker 49 per cent owned by British Steel, saw its pre-tax profits soar to Kr1.158 billion (£100 million) in the first quarter from Kr1.1 billion last time. The profits reflected a big jump in sales to Kr5.9 billion from Kr4 billion. The Stockholm company, with substantial production interests in Britain, is benefiting from the highly competitive Swedish currency and sees good prospects for the whole of this year.

British to shed further 2,400

## TOURIST RATES

|                 | Bank    | Bank    |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
|                 | Buy     | Sell    |
| Australia \$    | 2.26    | 2.09    |
| Austria Sch     | 18.97   | 18.47   |
| Belgium Fr      | 49.88   | 48.30   |
| Canada \$       | 2.23    | 2.07    |
| Cyprus Cyp      | 0.755   | 0.701   |
| Denmark Kr      | 9.48    | 8.84    |
| Finland Mk      | 7.48    | 6.84    |
| France Fr       | 6.47    | 7.82    |
| Germany Dr      | 2.46    | 2.21    |
| Greece Dr       | 380.00  | 385.00  |
| Hong Kong \$    | 12.77   | 11.77   |
| Ireland Pt      | 1.02    | 0.95    |
| Israel          | 8.2538  | 8.3038  |
| Italy Lit       | 2855.00 | 2840.00 |
| Japan Yen       | 161.00  | 158.00  |
| Korea Won       | 0.002   | 0.002   |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.933   | 2.453   |
| Norway Kr       | 10.67   | 9.87    |
| Portugal Esc    | 249.00  | 251.00  |
| S Africa Rd     | ref.    | 5.30    |
| Spain Ptas      | 804.00  | 101.00  |
| Sweden Kr       | 12.16   | 11.36   |
| Switzerland Fr  | 2.03    | 1.86    |
| Turkey Lira     | ref.    | 66510.0 |
| USA \$          | 1.988   | 1.938   |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

# BT

## Preliminary Results 1994/95

Results for fourth quarter and full year to 31 March, 1995

|  | Fourth quarter |       |        | Full year |        |        |
|--|----------------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
|  | 1994           | 1994  | Change | 1994      | 1994   | Change |
|  | £m             | £m    | %      | £m        | £m     | %      |
| Turnover                                 | 3,576          | 3,485 | 2.6    | 13,893    | 13,675 | 1.6    |
| Redundancy charges                       | 452            | 225   |        | 820       | 517    |        |
| Operating profit                         | 352            | 653   | (46.1) | 2,893     | 3,015  | (10.7) |
| Profit (loss) on sale of group companies | 208            | (12)  |        | 241       | (14)   |        |
| Profit before taxation                   | 509            | 558   | (8.8)  | 2,662     | 2,756  | (3.4)  |
| Profit after taxation                    | 352            | 365   | (3.6)  | 1,736     | 1,805  | (3.8)  |
| Earnings per share                       | 5.7p           | 5.6p  | 1.0    | 27.8p     | 28.5p  | (2.4)  |
| Dividends, net                           |                |       |        | 17.7p     | 16.7p  | 6.0    |

The accounts from which these non-statutory results are extracted have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies or reported on by the auditors.

### Chairman's statement

"The group has performed creditably in a year in which price reductions of over £800 million were made.

Inland call turnover reduced by 4.9 per cent because of the price cuts but volumes were healthy and increased by 7 per cent.

Once again, the costs of voluntary redundancies feature strongly in our results. We have recently announced the last in a round of company-wide schemes. When completed next year, this may be followed by smaller localised programmes to meet particular needs.

BT's trading prospects are sound but susceptible to a hostile and unpredictable regulatory environment at home and the uncertain shape of regulation abroad. The group is devoting significant efforts to developing its overseas activities.

Earnings per share were 27.8 pence.

The recommended final dividend of 10.65 pence per share brings the total dividend for the year to 17.7 pence, an increase of 6.0 per cent. Future dividends will continue to be influenced by the effects of competition and regulation in the UK together with investment needs and opportunities in the UK and overseas."

Sir Iain Vallance  
18 May, 1995

If you have any queries as a shareholder please call (0171) 356 4008. For daily recorded information on the BT share price and matters of interest to shareholders generally, please call 0345 010707 - you may telephone this number from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call. Different call rates apply for non-BT customers.

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## No promise of eternal life

THE idea that life assurance companies can be driven out of business purely by the pressures of competition is still shocking to the average consumer. Financial disaster is, oddly, easier to grasp than a 180-year-old company staging an orderly withdrawal from the market. If people do not buy policies, however, then fewer companies will be needed to sell them.

Across the industry, new premiums are down a fifth this year. That seems a paradox when people's insecurity about their future is boosting savings, when worried families are being urged on all sides to make their own provision for infirmity and old age because they cannot rely on the state, and when fewer careers are likely to be covered by traditional employer-run pension schemes.

The causes of the steep decline are well-known. High costs of personal pensions and the mis-selling scandal have put people off. Stagnation in the housing market and tales of lower returns are savaging the endowment mortgage market. And the industry complains, with some justice, that tax relief has been withdrawn from its non-pensions life business while newer reliefs favour rival equity and deposit plans.

Falling new business is how- ever, only one element in a four-

way squeeze on traditional medium-sized companies. They face much higher administrative costs of compliance and disclosure of charges in the wake of the pensions debacle. That in turn focuses potential customers' attention on the costs of the less efficient. Many banks and building societies, once prime outlets, now offer simple policies through their own competing life companies. Even Marks & Spencer is to sell policies.

Given all these pressures, it is surprising that so few companies have yet shut up shop and put their existing policies on a care and maintenance basis. There has actually been a net rise in employment in the industry recently despite the fall in trade.

Swiss Life and Lincoln Life have vacillated up a few, Confederation Life has gone, but the company set up by Sir Mark Weinberg to nurse such companies for the benefit of policyholders has not yet done a roaring trade. Significantly, historic London Life lost its independence some time ago, after its investment returns were hit by the 1987 market crash. It is

merely the smaller UK subsidiary of an Australian mutual. It would be a far more fundamental step for, say, a fully independent medium-sized mutual to throw in the towel to save policyholders having to meet excessive sales costs.

Unless the Chancellor helps, or costs can be cut to unit trust levels, many more of the weaker groups with nothing special to offer may not be able to remain active indefinitely. For that reason, regulators should be tightening up in advance to ensure that, as in this case, policyholders are looked after and cannot be ripped off.

### Stout party brews bitter battle

SCOTTISH & Newcastle is going into court convinced of its own innocence but not entirely sure the judge will see things that way. The betting must be that its link with Courage will avoid a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference, but this is a long way from a sure thing.

One key argument dis-



guishes this proposition from virtually every other takeover in the sector, including the 1988 offer by Elders — Courage in another incarnation — for S&N itself. The market has changed to such an extent that earlier case law, and the 25 per cent market share the merged combine will have, should be disregarded. The lack of geographical overlap should also help.

While the other big brewers might be expected to oppose the link, its acceptance may help their own expansion plans. Bass, just behind Courage/S&N, will feel prompted to grow, while Whitbread, the bridesmaid at the Courage wedding, may look hard at Carlsberg-Tetley. If all these moves

went ahead, 80 per cent of British brewing would be left in three pairs of hands.

The Courage deal looks clever, if complex. It manages to remove the Intreprenuer estate, co-owned by Courage and Grand Metropolitan, from the equation. Yet it keeps in place the supply agreement to that estate from Courage. Intreprenuer becomes a focused property company, while Foster's retains a margin payment under the supply deal and royalty payments for its eponymous brand.

S&N now has to decide just what cuts must be made to reach the £40 million-a-year savings it is looking for. Distribution can be rationalised, but closure of breweries is altogether a more difficult, more political matter. The merged entity has nine of these. Courage's state-of-the-art Reading plant looks sacrosanct, as do S&N's historic Edinburgh and Newcastle production centres. Courage's Stag brewery in Mortlake has already been hived off to Anheuser-Busch. The main areas of geographical overlap lie between Reading and Newcastle, for example Courage's Halifax

brewery, making Websters, and S&N's Matthew Brown plant in Manchester and its Home Brewery in Nottingham.

### Careless talk costs franchises

THERE is an old Spanish proverb that says: "My friends are all honourable men — but my cloak is still missing." The problem with the Independent Television Commission's move against anyone who played fast and loose at the Channel Five auction earlier this month, or may be tempted to do so in future franchise rounds, is that it presupposes all those involved are honourable men. But the end result of the bidding race still looks a distinctly odd one.

The ITC is to ask for written promises from the two bidders who crossed the finishing line together, the Virgin and Pearson consortium who put in bids identical to the last pound, that they did not collude. Otherwise they will be disqualified. Since both have shouted from the rooftops ever since that they did not, and

indeed the first has already called for an inquiry to clear its name, their written responses are unlikely to vary from this view. This goes no nearer to explaining just why both bids came in at a precise £22,002,000.

All this is significant because the over-bidder, a mixed bag mainly from overseas led by CanWest, has some work to do in meeting the various requirements of the ITC over and above hard cash, including quality and financial stability. If it fails, the race is open again to Virgin and Pearson, who can then rebid at rather less than previously offered, taking the view that the fourth runner, BSkyB/Granada, is out of the race. Should this happen it would be, to say the least, unfortunate if their new bids bore anything other than a glancing similarity.

### Shellshock

REFORM in South Africa has not brought peace to multinational AGMs, as Shell was reminded yesterday. Political disruptions may not be welcome but serve useful purposes. They use multinationals to draw the world into scandals oppressive regimes could otherwise hide. And they help shareholders to question what big organisations do in their name. Both are strengths of open capitalism.

## British Gas to shed further 2,400 staff

By COLIN NARBROUGH

BRITISH GAS, braced for investor hostility over top pay at its annual meeting on May 31, reported 2,400 voluntary redundancies for the first quarter and said that a further 8,000 were expected this year.

First-quarter figures, released yesterday, showed that earnings had fallen to 13.9p a share, from 15p, on an historical-cost basis, as net profits dipped to £605 million (£651 million). On a current-cost basis, the net profit fell to £505 million (£565 million).

The company said that warmer weather and the continuing loss of market among industrial and domestic users, mainly arising from regulatory policy, had dented performance during the quarter.

Operating profit, at £863 million (£951 million) on a current-cost basis, was depressed by the mild winter. Comparison with last year was distorted by the sale of its Consumers Gas business, which boosted first-quarter operating profits £109 million.



Giordano: benefits claim

Operating profit on continuing operations was almost unchanged, at £843 million.

Richard Giordano, the non-executive chairman, who has aggressively defended the company's remuneration structure, including his £450,000 pay and the £475,000 paid to Cedric Brown, the chief executive, said that restructuring of the UK gas business continued to move fast. Voluntary redundancies had exceeded company expectations. He said that more than 12,000 had left and the company was confident of achieving cost savings of more than £600 million a year. Benefits were starting to come through, he said, a claim questioned by some City analysts.

The target that British Gas set two years ago was for 25,000 job cuts by the end of 1998, with the bulk coming by the end of next year. The company has had to relocate its annual meeting to the London Arena in Docklands to cope with the large number of shareholders.

On the expected consultation document from Ofgas, the watchdog, on pricing by TransCo, Gas's distribution arm, Mr Giordano called for formulae that encouraged cuts in controllable costs, but recognised the capital intensive nature of the business, by providing incentives to management to improve the use of capital. TransCo operating profit fell £30 million to £450 million in the first quarter. Trading arm profits fell £45 million to £175 million.

Temps, page 26

### Onex bids £1bn for Labatt

By ERIC REGULY

A TAKEOVER offer worth \$2.3 billion (£1.1 billion) was announced yesterday for John Labatt, the Canadian brewer that owns 535 pubs in Britain and Birra Moretti, one of Italy's largest beer companies.

Onex Corporation, a Toronto-based holding company with investments in airline catering and food distribution, has bid \$24 a share in cash and notes for the company. It said the offer will be financed by \$940 in equity and convertible notes and \$1.4 billion in bank loans. The Quilmes group of Luxembourg, which controls brewing businesses in South America, said it will invest \$321.5 million.

Labatt dismissed the takeover proposal as "wholly inadequate". Labatt stock, which closed at \$21 7/8 on Wednesday, soared yesterday to more than \$24. Gerald Schwartz, Onex's chief executive, said he plans to sell Labatt's sports and entertainment divisions and hinted that the European division will go as well.

### Canteen exceeds forecasts

By MARTIN WALLER

CANTEEN, the US catering operation acquired by Compass Group a year ago, is running well ahead of profit forecasts made at the time of the acquisition and contributed strongly to first-half figures from the company.

Francis Mackay, chief executive of Compass, said the \$450 million purchase had survived one significant hurdle since then, a number of important repeat pitches for existing work including the prestigious catering contract for the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

"We have had a number of sensitive rebids where change of ownership hasn't been an issue," he said. Canteen contributed profits before interest and tax of \$19.9 million, a 13 per cent rise, to half-year figures from Compass Group that showed a rise in pre-tax profits from £23.3 million to £31 million.

Compass is paying an interim dividend raised from 2.19p to 2.45p, well covered by earnings ahead from 8.3p to 9.4p.

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| 1995 High Low Company Price Div. Yld. % P/E |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1995 High Low Company Price Div. Yld. % P/E |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| BANKS                                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | DISTRIBUTORS                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 100   | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 111   | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 |
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| 106   | 106 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 106 | 117   | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 |
| 107   | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 118   | 118 | 118 | 118 | 118 | 118 | 118 | 118 | 118 | 118 |
| 108   | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 119   | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 |
| 109   | 109 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 120   | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 |
| 110   | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 121   | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 | 121 |
| 111   | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 111 | 122   | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 | 122 |
| 112   | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 123   | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| 113   | 113 | 113 | 113 | 113 | 113 | 113 | 113 | 113 | 113 | 124   | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 |
| 114   | 114 | 114 | 114 | 114 | 114 | 114 | 114 | 114 | 114 | 125   | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| 115   | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 126   | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 |
| 116   | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 127   | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 |
| 117   | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 117 | 128   | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 |
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| 119   | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 119 | 130   | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 |
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| 124   | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 124 | 135   | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 |
| 125   | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 136   | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 |
| 126   | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 126 | 137   | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| 127   | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 138   | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 |
| 128   | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 128 | 139   | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| 129   | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 129 | 140   | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 |
| 130   | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 141   | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 |
| 131   | 131 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 131 | 142   | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 |
| 132   | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 132 | 143   | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 |
| 133   | 133 | 133 | 133 | 133 | 133 | 133 | 133 | 133 | 133 | 144   | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| 134   | 134 | 134 | 134 | 134 | 134 | 134 | 134 | 134 | 134 | 145   | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 |
| 135   | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 146   | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 |
| 136   | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 136 | 147   | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 |
| 137   | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 | 148   | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| 138   | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 149   | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 |
| 139   | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 150   | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| 140   | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 151   | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 |
| 141   | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 141 | 152   | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 |
| 142   | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 142 | 153   | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 |
| 143   | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 154   | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 |
| 144   | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 155   | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 |
| 145   | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 156   | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 |
| 146   | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 157   | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 |
| 147   | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 158   | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 |
| 148   | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 159   | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 |
| 149   | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 160   | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 |
| 150   | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 161   | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 |
| 151   | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 151 | 162   | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 |
| 152   | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 152 | 163   | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 |
| 153   | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 153 | 164   | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 |
| 154   | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 | 165   | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 |
| 155   | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 155 | 166   | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 |
| 156   | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 156 | 167   | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 |
| 157   | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 157 | 168   | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| 158   | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 | 169   | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 | 169 |
| 159   | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 159 | 170   | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 | 170 |
| 160   | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 171   | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 |
| 161   | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 172   | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| 162   | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 173   | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 |
| 163   | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 174   | 174 | 174 | 174 | 174 | 174 | 174 | 174 | 174 | 174 |
| 164   | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 175   | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 |
| 165   | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 165 | 176   | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 | 176 |
| 166   | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 177   | 177 | 177 | 177 | 177 | 177 | 177 | 177 | 177 | 177 |
| 167   | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 167 | 178   | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 |
| 168   | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 168 | 179   | 179 | 179 | 179 | 179 |     |     |     |     |     |











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# Cambridge still top — by a whisker

In our annual league table, Oxford is closing fast on its old rival, writes John O'Leary

Oxford continues to dominate *The Times* university rankings, published today, but the gap between the two ancient universities has narrowed again. After a year in which Cambridge began to forge ahead, the two rivals are almost as close together as when the rankings began.

Both have pulled ahead of the two main challengers from the University of London, while Warwick and Durham have joined Edinburgh in fifth place. Cardiff is the highest-placed Welsh college by some margin, while the University of the West of England at Bristol is the leading new university.

Although the top places in the table remain unchanged, there is considerable movement below. Several of the civic universities have continued their rise and positions have altered at all levels. Luton, for example, which was anchored at the foot of the table as the newest university, has leapt 14 places this year.

Some of the churning is the result of changes in the way the rankings are compiled. The omission of research income from the calculations, for example, worked against primarily technological universities such as the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

More significant generally, however, were the changes taking place in higher education over the period covered by the statistics used to compile the guide. Most refer to the period between 1992 and 1994, when the growth in student numbers was affecting staffing levels, entry grades, the availability of accommodation and employment prospects.

The impact is still being felt, even though the Government has called a temporary halt to the expansion of higher education. Subsequent rankings are certain to reflect the changes in postgraduate numbers, for example, as well as the continuing pressure on staffing.

Only one indicator has not



The University of the West of England at Bristol is the leading new university

been updated: research. The funding councils will carry out new assessments next year, but the 1992 ratings influence funding levels and are the most recent available.

Other indicators show that Cambridge remains the best-staffed university with the highest entrance requirements, the most student accommodation and the largest proportion of first-class degrees. Oxford shares top billing for the proportion of undergraduates completing degrees, and does best on library spending.

Buckingham, Britain's only private university, heads two categories, enabling it to jump nine places into the top half of the table. It boasts the best graduate employment

rate and beats Middlesex to top place in our 'value-added' indicator, which measures completion rates, firsts and employment figures against entrance requirements. The London School of Economics heads the remaining category, with the highest proportion of postgraduates.

Cambridge's lead over Oxford at the head of the table is cut to only four points out of 1,000, partly because of the changes in methodology. Oxford suffered previously for the variety of higher degrees among its staff when the proportion of PhDs alone was used as a measure of academic qualifications.

As in previous years, the table omits university institutions such as Cranfield and the London Business School, which are wholly or predominantly postgraduate, as well as the Open University, which is concerned exclusively with distance education.

The table is intended as a signpost for students considering a first degree, giving a broad indication of a university's standing. The component parts are published in detail in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

The methods used to compile the rankings have, belatedly, become the subject of serious academic debate. Three lecturers from Queen's University, Belfast, produced a statistical critique of last year's rankings in the *Higher Education Quarterly*, and even argued that Imperial College, London, should have finished above Oxford.

The authors of the paper did not contact the compilers of the guide, so their findings could not affect the current rankings. However, other researchers and some vice-chancellors have made constructive criticisms, which have resulted in changes in the table.

## Unrest on the campus

UNIVERSITY league tables remain controversial not just in Britain, but wherever they are produced. In the United States and Canada, too, public demand for higher education rankings is matched by academics' opposition.

French Canadian universities staged a mass boycott of the rankings produced by *Maclean's* magazine last year and were joined by half a dozen from the English-speaking sector. The magazine expects most to return this year.

Victor Dwyer, *Maclean's* education editor, said: "The universities do not like to be ranked, but they seem to be learning to live with it. It raises the profile of higher education, and even those near the bottom find that the publicity is helping their applications."

In America, where university rankings began, they have become so popular that at least 15 guides are now published. The universities are so swamped with demands for information that they are standardising some of their statistics and limiting the amount of data they are prepared to produce. Some, unfortunately, have even massaged their figures for a better ranking.

Tom Cannon explains changes to make the ratings system fairer

This year's league tables have undergone the most radical revision since their introduction. The number of indicators has been reduced in response to common criticisms from within the university system, and a standard weighting system adopted instead of the variable weights used previously in *The Times*.

The reduction in the number of indicators was partly a response to the view that particular aspects of university life were given too much emphasis. This was especially true of the two research measures employed — research income per capita member of staff and the measure based on the last research assessment exercise. Several Vice-Chancellors argued that this over-emphasised the role of research in an increasingly pluralistic university system. Some institutions also find it difficult to separate research income from other revenue.

So this indicator was dropped.

Similar problems existed with the measures of staff qualifications. It was relatively easy to identify staff with PhDs but some staff do not inform their university of their professional qualifications.

Eliminating these measures and the category for international students, which was heavily influenced by a university's location, created an opportunity to tackle a further criticism. This centred on the different weighting given in the past to each indicator. In previous years, for example, entry requirements carried a weighting of 100 and the proportion of overseas students only 20. Giving equal weight to the remaining indicators should make the rankings more accessible to the general reader.

This switch seems to have stretched

out the scores and slightly reduced the clustering of universities that was evident last year. Some universities changed position but a comparison with results using the old method indicates that equal weightings had only a small effect on this.

This year seems to have seen a shift in the character of the debate on the rankings. Comments centred largely on the ways to improve the quality and fairness of the outcomes.

Each year, every university is sent a copy of our estimates of the figures for each indicator. They are given the opportunity to correct any errors, and definitions are provided for each item. Professor Sam Moore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, pointed out that it was possible to interpret completion rates in more than one way.

Our aim was to identify the proportion of students who entered the university and completed their degrees successfully, in the normal year of graduation. Some institutions, however, seem to have taken "complete successfully" to mean either the numbers who enter the final year and then complete successfully or those who enter their final examinations and complete successfully. A few corrections have been made, and next year's definition will be based on Professor Moore's clarification.

Over the next year, the higher education funding councils and the Higher Education Statistics Agency seem likely to publish their own figures for most or all the measures used in *The Times* rankings. Professor Peter Toyn, the Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool John Moores University,

stressed the added value of this authoritative source of information. All credit should be given to the statistics unit and the universities. It seems they have solved the problem of gathering and publishing, for all universities, up-to-date information that the community has a right to know.

The major gaps are self-evident. The greatest omission in the main table is a measure of teaching standards. This year we have not been able to include these in the institutional tables, but have constructed subject tables around institutional visits and reports undertaken by the funding councils. The greater emphasis on subjects is perhaps the most significant change in emphasis in this year's analysis.

Professor Cannon is chief executive of the Management Charter Initiative and visiting professor of Corporate Responsibility at Manchester University.

## THE TIMES LEAGUE TABLE 1995: HOW THE UNIVERSITIES COMPARE

|                     | Entry grades | Student/staff ratio | Library spending | Student accommodation | Completion rates | Firsts | Research | Value added | Postgraduate | Employment | Total |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------|
|                     | 100          | 100                 | 100              | 100                   | 100              | 100    | 100      | 100         | 100          | 100        | 1000  |
| 1 Cambridge         | 98           | 99                  | 59               | 96                    | 93               | 99     | 100      | 65          | 99           | 51         | 858   |
| 2 Oxford            | 94           | 84                  | 99               | 89                    | 84               | 99     | 73       | 79          | 97           | 56         | 854   |
| 3 Imperial          | 95           | 96                  | 37               | 47                    | 95               | 94     | 88       | 63          | 96           | 50         | 748   |
| 4 UCL               | 78           | 88                  | 31               | 50                    | 83               | 95     | 59       | 62          | 97           | 60         | 703   |
| 5 Edinburgh         | 84           | 77                  | 31               | 60                    | 73               | 95     | 54       | 66          | 93           | 59         | 692   |
| 5 Warwick           | 80           | 80                  | 28               | 84                    | 91               | 90     | 34       | 62          | 93           | 51         | 692   |
| 5 Durham            | 81           | 71                  | 39               | 82                    | 72               | 97     | 38       | 73          | 83           | 57         | 693   |
| 8 Nottingham        | 88           | 79                  | 31               | 61                    | 79               | 98     | 40       | 67          | 86           | 65         | 691   |
| 8 York              | 79           | 78                  | 29               | 78                    | 76               | 97     | 48       | 65          | 86           | 57         | 691   |
| 10 LSE              | 83           | 59                  | 54               | 32                    | 98               | 97     | 30       | 61          | 99           | 50         | 683   |
| 10 Birmingham       | 80           | 91                  | 27               | 39                    | 83               | 95     | 44       | 59          | 79           | 67         | 683   |
| 10 Bristol          | 87           | 77                  | 31               | 53                    | 70               | 98     | 48       | 65          | 79           | 95         | 683   |
| 13 Bath             | 77           | 78                  | 29               | 39                    | 75               | 94     | 56       | 68          | 89           | 56         | 686   |
| 13 Manchester       | 80           | 77                  | 34               | 51                    | 66               | 98     | 46       | 61          | 91           | 54         | 688   |
| 15 Sheffield        | 75           | 75                  | 27               | 95                    | 68               | 90     | 33       | 61          | 79           | 53         | 655   |
| 15 St Andrews       | 80           | 77                  | 32               | 74                    | 40               | 99     | 54       | 64          | 81           | 54         | 655   |
| 15 Surrey           | 63           | 71                  | 24               | 80                    | 95               | 87     | 42       | 68          | 74           | 52         | 655   |
| 18 King's London    | 77           | 91                  | 32               | 34                    | 70               | 94     | 46       | 89          | 83           | 54         | 650   |
| 19 Reading          | 68           | 91                  | 25               | 65                    | 80               | 88     | 33       | 63          | 68           | 89         | 646   |
| 19 UMIST            | 71           | 77                  | 25               | 48                    | 65               | 88     | 47       | 66          | 92           | 69         | 646   |
| 21 Lancaster        | 75           | 78                  | 29               | 62                    | 72               | 91     | 29       | 63          | 88           | 55         | 641   |
| 22 Leicester        | 71           | 74                  | 30               | 68                    | 85               | 89     | 33       | 51          | 67           | 56         | 634   |
| 22 Southampton      | 79           | 78                  | 29               | 49                    | 61               | 98     | 44       | 61          | 78           | 59         | 634   |
| 22 Liverpool        | 79           | 77                  | 29               | 47                    | 84               | 98     | 44       | 60          | 70           | 66         | 634   |
| 22 Leeds            | 77           | 91                  | 28               | 63                    | 59               | 95     | 37       | 55          | 72           | 57         | 634   |
| 26 Royal Holloway   | 75           | 77                  | 29               | 59                    | 33               | 98     | 50       | 60          | 82           | 63         | 625   |
| 26 Glasgow          | 78           | 74                  | 31               | 85                    | 55               | 96     | 39       | 61          | 67           | 60         | 625   |
| 28 UWC Cardiff      | 76           | 86                  | 30               | 61                    | 80               | 89     | 30       | 64          | 56           | 59         | 621   |
| 29 Loughborough     | 70           | 67                  | 25               | 74                    | 55               | 97     | 46       | 63          | 67           | 56         | 619   |
| 29 Sussex           | 67           | 67                  | 33               | 84                    | 68               | 95     | 39       | 60          | 87           | 56         | 619   |
| 29 Newcastle        | 73           | 71                  | 31               | 61                    | 60               | 95     | 38       | 62          | 78           | 60         | 615   |
| 32 Queen Mary       | 73           | 71                  | 32               | 41                    | 50               | 96     | 42       | 63          | 77           | 70         | 615   |
| 33 Strathclyde      | 70           | 71                  | 23               | 27                    | 70               | 92     | 52       | 74          | 66           | 63         | 607   |
| 33 Brunel           | 67           | 48                  | 28               | 48                    | 90               | 86     | 46       | 78          | 59           | 61         | 607   |
| 33 Aston            | 74           | 53                  | 31               | 70                    | 57               | 90     | 35       | 70          | 60           | 57         | 607   |
| 36 Essex            | 60           | 67                  | 28               | 84                    | 58               | 92     | 27       | 63          | 91           | 63         | 602   |
| 36 Stirling         | 72           | 59                  | 28               | 74                    | 50               | 91     | 46       | 61          | 63           | 60         | 602   |
| 36 City             | 67           | 63                  | 28               | 35                    | 99               | 86     | 42       | 52          | 59           | 56         | 602   |
| 36 Keele            | 71           | 77                  | 25               | 66                    | 83               | 85     | 23       | 47          | 47           | 59         | 602   |
| 36 Exeter           | 70           | 71                  | 23               | 47                    | 68               | 96     | 39       | 61          | 72           | 60         | 602   |
| 41 Aberdeen         | 67           | 64                  | 28               | 61                    | 49               | 96     | 40       | 63          | 56           | 68         | 591   |
| 41 Hull             | 71           | 71                  | 22               | 72                    | 73               | 96     | 21       | 61          | 42           | 62         | 591   |
| 41 Salford          | 63           | 63                  | 22               | 82                    | 48               | 89     | 42       | 70          | 42           | 70         | 591   |
| 44 Buckingham       | 40           | 98                  | 41               | 71                    | 30               | 95     | 18       | 80          | 24           | 88         | 584   |
| 44 East Anglia      | 67           | 63                  | 28               | 52                    | 63               | 92     | 34       | 56          | 72           | 59         | 584   |
| 46 Heriot-Watt      | 66           | 77                  | 22               | 44                    | 58               | 87     | 42       | 63          | 59           | 55         | 571   |
| 47 Dundee           | 60           | 75                  | 29               | 39                    | 50               | 92     | 35       | 67          | 56           | 63         | 566   |
| 48 UCW, Swansea     | 68           | 68                  | 24               | 53                    | 53               | 98     | 30       | 54          | 61           | 51         | 563   |
| 49 UCW, Bangor      | 60           | 71                  | 27               | 48                    | 53               | 96     | 31       | 58          | 48           | 68         | 561   |
| 50 Kent             | 68           | 67                  | 28               | 60                    | 55               | 94     | 33       | 41          | 56           | 52         | 552   |
| 50 Bradford         | 60           | 83                  | 28               | 38                    | 49               | 91     | 33       | 60          | 48           | 63         | 552   |
| 52 Queen's, Belfast | 67           | 61                  | 24               | 26                    | 64               | 96     | 31       | 63          | 44           | 61         | 538   |
| 52 Ulster           | 63           | 67                  | 21               | 51                    | 45               | 92     | 21       | 64          | 49           | 66         | 538   |
| 54 Aberystwyth      | 62           | 59                  | 29               | 61                    | 50               | 92     | 18       | 53          | 50           | 56         | 529   |
| 55 Goldsmiths       | 50           | 71                  | 25               | 41                    | 38               | 87     | 33       | 66          | 46           | 62         | 520   |
| 56 West of England  | 60           | 75                  | 22               | 58                    | 35               | 85     | 22       | 64          | 37           | 56         | 513   |
| 57 Sheffield Hallam | 43           | 68                  | 31               | 29                    | 43               | 89     | 25       | 72          | 39           | 75         | 509   |
| 57 Oxford Brookes   | 60           | 67                  | 16               | 47                    | 55               | 89     | 25       | 66          | 29           | 55         | 508   |
| 59 Middlesex        | 43           | 54                  | 26               | 22                    | 37               | 88     | 38       | 74          | 32           | 83         | 502   |
| 59 Kingston         | 47           | 59                  | 18               | 38                    | 48               | 89     | 28       | 67          | 41           | 73         | 502   |
| 59 Northumbria      | 50           | 71                  | 28               | 26                    | 38               | 96     | 25       | 65          | 33           | 71         | 502   |
| 62 Plymouth         | 48           | 79                  | 22               | 18                    | 31               | 98     | 25       | 64          | 40           | 73         | 496   |
| 63 UCW Lampeter     | 63           | 50                  | 29               | 65                    | 20               | 99     | 17       | 55          | 41           | 61         | 490   |
| 63 Hertfordshire    | 62           | 61                  | 19               | 59                    | 33               | 90     | 22       | 60          | 21           | 74         | 490   |
| 63 Portsmouth       | 52           | 76                  | 20               | 24                    | 40               | 97     | 25       | 63          | 22           | 71         | 490   |
| 66 Westminster      | 43           | 63                  | 22               | 16                    | 50               | 84     | 38       | 63          | 37           | 68         | 483   |
| 66 Central England  | 57           | 64                  | 20               | 31                    | 40               | 95     | 25       | 73          | 12           | 67         | 483   |
| 68 Manchester Metro | 53           | 69                  | 22               | 27                    | 30               | 84     | 22       | 57          | 29           | 79         | 476   |
| 68 Leeds Metro      | 49           | 57                  | 31               | 34                    | 33               | 84     | 22       | 62          | 22           | 78         | 476   |
| 68 Nottingham Trent | 65           | 61                  | 17               | 27                    | 33               | 90     | 25       | 64          | 17           | 75         | 476   |
| 68 De Montfort      | 50           | 59                  | 30               | 36                    | 26               | 95     | 25       | 59          | 17           | 80         | 476   |
| 72 Wolverhampton    | 42           | 70                  | 23               | 50                    | 50               | 87     | 17       | 55          | 20           | 60         | 474   |
| 73 Humber           | 53           | 63                  | 30               | 42                    | 30               | 87     | 13       | 63          | 12           | 62         | 465   |
| 74 Central Lancs    | 57           | 61                  | 18               | 29                    | 30               | 92     | 21       | 60          | 12           | 67         | 448   |
| 74 Robert Gordon    | 40           | 71                  | 22               | 29                    | 18               | 80     | 38       | 58          | 18           | 75         | 448   |
| 78 Staffordshire    | 52           | 63                  | 19               | 41                    | 30               | 90     | 21       | 58          | 12           | 61         | 447   |
| 77 Teesside         | 40           | 63                  | 16               | 36                    | 25               | 86     | 25       | 58          | 32           | 63         | 445   |
| 78 Coventry         | 37           | 59                  | 15               | 27                    | 25               | 92     | 24       | 54          | 37           | 73         | 442   |
| 79 South Bank       | 40           | 54                  | 18               | 12                    | 38               | 91     | 25       | 55          | 38           | 70         | 440   |
| 80 Brighton         | 43           | 67                  | 17               | 21                    | 30               | 83     | 25       | 54          | 32           | 65         | 437   |
| 80 Glasgow Cal      | 50           | 63                  | 22               | 8                     | 35               | 84     | 21       | 67          | 11           | 76         | 437   |
| 82 Luton            | 37           | 56                  | 17               | 40                    | 18               | 89     | 29       | 69          | 12           | 69         | 433   |
| 83 Sunderland       | 37           | 56                  | 23               | 33                    | 26               | 83     | 21       | 68          | 24           | 72         | 431   |
| 83 Greenwich        | 46           | 54                  | 21               | 25                    | 39               | 93     | 19       | 51          | 27           | 59         | 431   |
| 85 North London     | 40           | 53                  | 18               | 12                    | 25               | 79     | 28       | 64          | 36           | 70         | 422   |
| 85 Glamorgan        | 43           | 61                  | 17               | 31                    | 25               | 96     | 18       | 54          | 13           | 74         | 422   |
| 87 Bournemouth      | 47           | 63                  | 19               | 8                     | 35               | 85     | 13       | 68          | 18           | 69         | 419   |
| 87 East London      | 47           | 63                  | 20               | 18                    | 43               | 83     | 29       | 46          | 12           | 60         | 419   |
| 87 Liv John Moores  | 43           | 63                  | 19               | 25                    | 16               | 91     | 25       | 57          | 12           | 69         | 419   |
| 90 Thames Valley    | 50           | 67                  | 24               | 5                     | 25               | 89     | 17       | 59          | 17           | 66         | 418   |
| 91 London Guildhall | 43           | 59                  | 27               | 8                     | 20               | 95     | 21       | 50          | 20           | 67         | 410   |
| 92 Huddersfield     | 43           | 56                  | 16               | 11                    | 32               | 78     | 20       | 54          | 26           | 65         | 400   |
| 93 Derby            | 33           | 53                  | 14               | 18                    | 28               | 91     | 15       | 48          | 12           | 72         | 386   |
| 93 Napier           | 43           | 71                  | 22               | 12                    | 28               | 80     | 8        | 50          | 12           | 60         | 386   |
| 93 Anglia           | 40           | 63                  | 16               | 21                    | 20               | 81     | 13       | 51          | 12           | 68         | 386   |
| 96 Abertay, Dundee  | 30           | 63                  | 8                | 18                    | 15               | 85     | 19       | 53          | 12           | 61         | 363   |
| 96 Paisley          | 40           | 63                  | 18               | 18                    | 13               | 82     | 10       | 50          | 12           | 56         | 363   |



# UNIVERSITY GUIDE

...this term, next term, long term



## Top marks for old and new

DURHAM and Warwick are an odd couple sharing the premier berth in *The Times* ranking of provincial universities: a clash of generation and style, but united in excellence.

Durham is long established as a distinguished alternative to Oxbridge, complete with a collegiate structure, historic setting and predominantly middle-class student body. Warwick, in contrast, is an "old new" university, one of a clutch of increasingly successful campus institutions founded in the last wave of rapid higher education expansion in the 1960s. York, Surrey and Bath also claim places in the top ten.

The formidable civic universities retain a strong grip on the upper reaches of the rankings. Nottingham, last year's leader, shares third place with York, although just two points divide the top four institutions in our aggregate table opposite.

Birmingham, which came first in 1993, is just behind with Bristol, followed by Manchester and Sheffield. These more expensive city locations remain attractive to applicants in spite of student hardship. Bristol vies with Nottingham for the highest entry requirements, with about 15 prospective students chasing each place. Sheffield benefits from the high proportion of students in university accommodation.

Durham is determined



Trevelyan, one of Durham University's 12 colleges

|              |              |                 |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 Durham     | 7 Bath       | 14 Leeds        |
| 2 Warwick    | 8 Manchester | 15 Leicester    |
| 3 Nottingham | 9 Sheffield  | 16 Liverpool    |
| 4 York       | 10 Surrey    | 17 Southampton  |
| 5 Birmingham | 11 Reading   | 18 Loughborough |
| 6 Bristol    | 12 UMIST     | 19 Newcastle    |
|              | 13 Lancaster | 20 Sussex       |

traditional. Applications have to be made to one of the 12 colleges — all but one now mixed — ranging in size from 300 to 700. This collegiate system is regarded as the bedrock of Durham's particular success in two key areas:

it boasts a low drop-out rate and an outstanding graduate employment record. The university also strives to keep the size of teaching groups as small as possible.

Keith Seacroft, a senior official, explains: "We take

great care over admissions to ensure that people choose Durham as positively as we choose them. The college environment is supportive. College tutors help people to settle in and are sympathetic. If someone needs help. The

system also encourages students to support one another." Mr Seacroft argues that employers recognise the quality of graduates produced by this system.

Warwick has benefited from a president's leadership that pioneered the development of close links with industry and business, an idea before its time and derided by some. Similarly, the university pursued a selective policy rather than trying to cover the whole range of academic disciplines. Warwick has been free to concentrate on subjects such as science, business and engineering because it does not bear the expense of medicine, science or veterinary science.

Both research and teaching are rated highly by the funding council. Warwick gained the most impressive provincial ratings in the 1992 research assessment exercise, and has one of the highest proportions of postgraduates. York, a contemporary of Warwick, retains third position. Students score an impressive number of firsts. First-year students are guaranteed a residential place on the lakeside campus two miles from the city centre, which ensures a strong performance in the accommodation ranking. Overall, some 65 per cent of students are housed on campus some two miles from the city centre.

BEN PRESTON

## TOP 20 NEW UNIVERSITIES

### Progress of an ex-poly

The University of the West of England, Bristol — UWE to its friends — carries the flag for the new universities for the second time in three years. The high ratio of applications to places confirms the regard with which prospective students hold one of the most ambitious former polytechnics.

Oxford Brookes and Sheffield Hallam record sharp improvements in their ratings and have shot up the table to share second place. Oxford scores heavily for its entry requirements which are the stiffest in the sector. Other high climbers include Kingston, the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, and Plymouth.

Sheffield Hallam benefits, in particular, from the value-added measure which is designed to allow universities to demonstrate the extent to which they help students to progress during their academic career. It is constructed by relating students' qualifications on entry with a measure linking completion rates, firsts and employment figures.

The fourth annual ranking highlights the consistent performance of Middlesex, Hertfordshire, the University of Central England in Birmingham, and Portsmouth, which have all firmly established themselves as regulars in the top ten. Portsmouth enjoys the best staff-student ratio of the new universities. Only Middlesex betters the employment

fail to reflect their distinctive aims and circumstances. For example, the overwhelming majority of new universities set out their stalls as institutions which emphasise the importance of teaching and argue that research ratings are of little consequence.

This year's measures have been changed to accommodate some objections. Two indicators which favoured the traditional universities have been dropped: income raised by research, and overseas students.

Predictably, the new universities lag behind in library spending and student accommodation. The pace of recent expansion in student numbers has been rapid, outstripping funds available for investment.

But several institutions — including UWE, Oxford Brookes, Hertfordshire and Wolverhampton — do have access to accommodation on a scale that stands comparison with traditional counterparts. UWE has about 900 places in halls of residence and manages a further 250 in student houses. First-years are given priority in the allocation of accommodation, but most students have to fend for themselves.

The main campus is outside Bristol at Frenchay, near Bristol Parkway station. UWE has forged strong links with the region, validating further and higher education programmes in college. Franchised courses are now running in at least nine colleges.

record of graduates from Central England.

The new universities, however, remain sceptical about the value of rankings which allow prospective students to compare the performance of institutions which adopted the title "university" only three years ago with long-established rivals. Even UWE finishes only 56th overall.

As a result, this remains the most controversial section of *The Times Good University Guide*. Some vice-chancellors argue that several of the indicators used

## Lead on, Edinburgh

Edinburgh remains clearly the top university in Scotland, as it has been since the first *Times* rankings were compiled in 1992. It may have slipped to fifth in the overall table, but there are no serious challengers to its position north of the border.

St Andrews, in second place, matched Edinburgh for staffing levels and first-class degrees, as well as having a better record for library spending, completion rates and student accommodation, but could not compete in other areas.

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| 1 Edinburgh           |
| 2 St Andrews          |
| 3 Glasgow             |
| 4 Strathclyde         |
| 5 Stirling            |
| 6 Aberdeen            |
| 7 Heriot-Watt         |
| 8 Dundee              |
| 9 Robert Gordon       |
| 10 Glasgow Caledonian |

Nevertheless, St Andrews' 15th place overall was an improvement on last year.

As in England, the new universities are yet to make up the leeway on their more

established counterparts. Like previous universities in their first year, Aberdeen finds itself at the foot of the table, with Paisley, where an open access policy does not lend itself to such comparisons.

Scottish universities may also be undervalued in the overall ranking because of the conversion used for Higher examinations, which are the most usual entrance qualifications. However, Glasgow, Strathclyde, Stirling, Dundee and Heriot-Watt all feature in the top half of the table of all the universities in Britain.

## Looking to the future

The hard-headed expediency of the modern student shines through the breakdown of university applications by subject this year. Demand is buoyant for business, management and computer studies.

As students bear more of the costs of higher education — taking on the burden of loans as the Government's grant for living costs shrinks — so they are opting for courses which they hope will help them in the hunt for jobs. Business studies is booming while economics, its more theoretic stablemate, is in decline. Although the headline figure for language courses has dropped slightly, the number of students learning a language is increasing as the popularity of flexible, modular courses grows.

This is only the second year that the relative pulling power of subjects has been apparent. Previously the separate clearing houses for the traditional and new universities muddled the waters and made it difficult to contrast the fortunes of different disciplines.

Psychology has stalled after enjoying an explosion of interest since the late 1980s. But the study of self, mind and society still attracts almost as many applicants as

| Subject                     | Applications | % change |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Business/management         | 147,000      | 6.0      |
| Language                    | 146,000      | -1.3     |
| Law                         | 104,000      | -4.8     |
| Creative arts               | 88,000       | 11.8     |
| Social science / arts       | 86,000       | 0.8      |
| Computer studies            | 71,000       | 9.7      |
| Psychology                  | 77,000       | -2.8     |
| Science / social science    | 69,000       | 17.3     |
| General / combined subjects | 64,000       | -3.0     |
| Medicine                    | 59,000       | -1.1     |
| English                     | 58,000       | 1.1      |
| Geography                   | 45,000       | -8.5     |
| Sociology                   | 39,000       | 2.7      |
| Economics                   | 37,000       | -11.3    |
| Mechanical Engineering      | 35,000       | -3.1     |
| Media Studies               | 32,000       | 63.1     |
| Chemistry                   | 30,000       | 0.3      |
| Combined sciences           | 30,000       | 6.4      |

The table is based on the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service degree course application figures to March 1995.

physics, chemistry and biology put together. Under the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service procedures, each applicant can make eight initial choices. This system inflates the popularity of mainstream subjects.

# Take a course in economics before you get to university

You may not have decided which university to go to yet, or even which subject to study. But you can start preparing yourself for student life by opening your bank account now!

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## WIN A £20,000 TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

AN amazing 90-day once-in-a-lifetime trip around the world, worth £20,000, is being offered by *The Times* in association with Coca-Cola. The competition is open to full-time students aged between 18 and 26 on June 1, 1995. One student reader, and his or her partner (or friend), will travel and report their adventures to readers of *The Times* this summer.

The package, organised by Coca-Cola and STA Travel, includes all flights, accommodation and expenses for an unforgettable holiday to destinations in Europe, the Far East and America's West Coast. The prize gives the winner the resources to do something really different. To help, they will be given a Coca-Cola travel kit, which includes trainers, rucksacks, T-shirts, even mosquito spray.

TO ENTER Collect four tokens from *The Times*. The first appeared on Monday and more appear daily

until Saturday. Then write and tell us, in 250 words, about the most exciting discovery you have made on your travels and what made it so special.

Send tokens and entry, giving your date of birth and place of study, to: *The Times/Coca-Cola Global Refreshment Competition*, PO Box 4037, Maida Hill Sorting Office, London W9 3TW. Closing date is July 1, 1995.

Judges will be Brian MacArthur, *The Times* Executive Features Editor, and representatives from Coca-Cola and STA Travel. They will look for strikingly original entries. Ten runners-up will each receive a travel kit.





## MUSICALS

Royal Ballet star Irek Mukhamedov sings (after a fashion) but hardly dances in the new *King and I*

## OPERA

ENO's new staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* aspires to be chic but ends up looking merely superficial

## THE TIMES ARTS

## THEATRE 1

Steven Berkoff snarls and twists the text, but his *Coriolanus* in Leeds captures the play's vicious spirit

## THEATRE 2

Farce lives, if creakily: the new Scottish play, *Dumbstruck*, brings black comedy to the Lyric

# Don't give up the day job, Irek

The Royal Ballet star is not going to be the next Howard Keel, says Richard Morrison after watching Mukhamedov's musical debut

Connoisseurs of weird nights in the West End should hurry along to the Freemasons' Hall. True, those marbled walls must have gazed in silent bemusement at some strange rituals in their time. But *The King and I*, being staged for four nights only by the BOC Covent Garden Festival, surely ranks high on the all-time list of peculiar showbiz enterprises.

Why, for a start, put on *The King and I* for four nights only? All those sumptuous Thai costumes, those 67 children of the King of Siam, that opera-sized orchestra assembled to swirl through Richard Rodgers's sourest melodies while troupes of dancers do their stuff and Hammerstein's snail-paced libretto crawls towards its literally funeral ending — all this will be but a faint memory by Monday morning.

But let us simplify the question. Why put on *The King and I* at all? It has a few funny lines, but so do the Belgian railways. It ran for 1,200-odd performances in 1951, but today — even in a production as innocuous as John Gardyne's — the spectacle of the Siamese being "taught manners" by an English governess will strike the politically correct as offensive, and the rest of us merely as irritatingly arch.

Of course, *The King and I* does have some very famous ditties, and a few

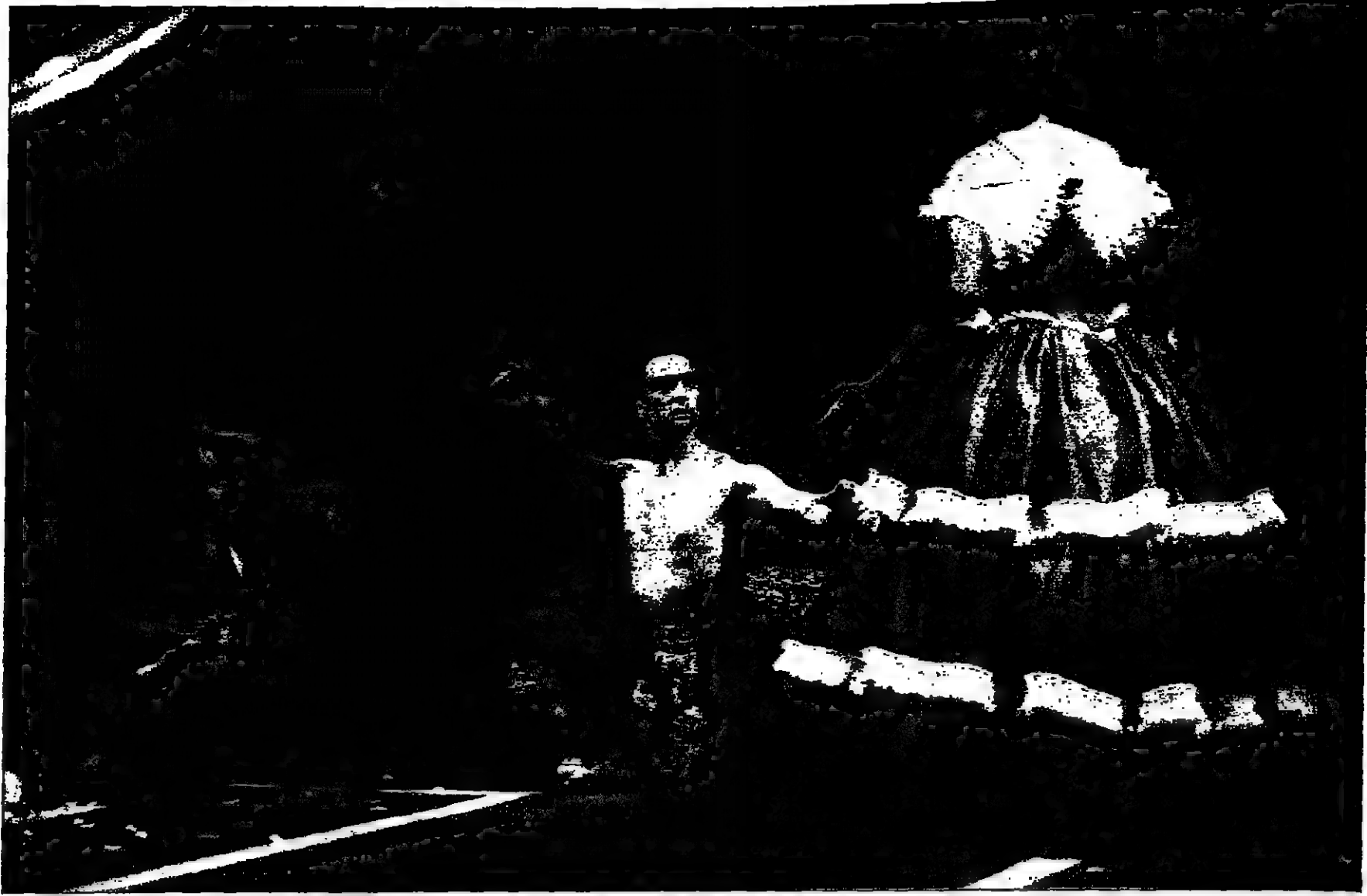
others that are actually rather good. But if you are reviving the show for its songs, why cast as the lead somebody who has so little to offer vocally?

In the unlikely event of the Covent Garden Festival ever staging *Spartacus* in the Freemasons' Hall, the Royal Ballet star Irek Mukhamedov would clearly be first choice to lead the leaping and prancing. But

Mukhamedov in the Yul Brynner role of the King of Siam? The fact that the man was born east of Clacton and has a remarkable talent for mangling English into knots of unfathomable gobbledygook is not really sufficient qualification.

And don't tell me that the King of Siam wouldn't speak perfect English: all his 67 little nippers seem to manage. Mukhamedov's acting, meanwhile, seems to consist of pointing accusingly at whatever happens to be on the stage with him at the time: man, woman, cushion... it doesn't seem to matter. As for his singing, it is strange that somebody who has spent all his working life dancing to superb melodies should exhibit such a tenuous rapport with the basics of musical pitch.

He does finally skip a light polka, to great cheers (perhaps of relief) from his legion of fans. But several hours have to roll lugubriously by before Liz Robertson can utter the famous cry of



Getting to know you? Irek Mukhamedov as the King, Liz Robertson as "I", in a new staging of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical at the Freemasons' Hall

"Shassall weese dance, ta-rum-pum-pum", and he whisked around in a grimly determined kind of way on a stage that is about the width of a paper-clip. And Robertson herself, though forceful enough in demeanour and speech as the zealous governess Anna, is not really a match for Julie Andrews in the singing-nanny stakes. Stridency has no place in a Rodgers score.

However, there is much pleasurable singing from the two juvenile leads, Deborah Myers and Mario Frangoulis. That is just as well, since these two doomed lovers have the loveliest

numbers: *I Have Dreamed* and *We Kiss in a Shadow*. Shezwe Powell also sings powerfully as the senior wife, Lady Thiang.

Elsewhere, the mimed play-within-a-play of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* — which mirrors the tragic subplot of Act II — is neatly choreographed, Thai-style, by Sean Walsh. And the children (including some very tiny tots) are splendid: their unpretentious routine in *Getting to Know You* is enchanting. As for the rest — well, "is a puzzlement", as the King of Siam would say. And possibly even does say, but who can tell?

DONALD COOPER

## Dream turns sour

It is easy to understand why Robert Carsen's production of the *Dream* should have been so popular at Aix-en-Provence four years ago, and on its subsequent tour of France. Across the Channel people are more tolerant of — indeed they more or less invented — a production style in which a series of unconnected, would-be chic "ideas" imposed at random on a work take the place of real thought. This *Dream* looks glitzy, camp and superficial, the perfect staging for people who think Shakespeare and Britten are — how to put it? — boring old farts in desperate need of barding-up.

Michael Levine's decor is puzzlingly lacking in atmosphere. For three-quarters of the evening the false stage is covered with a cloth in a peculiarly unattractive shade of knicker-green. In the first act it is a huge bed; in the second, seven small beds are set on it; in the third, there are three flying beds, which presumably caused the inordinately long interval during which our indulgence was craved for a "technical problem". The whole is flaily lit by Davy Cunningham. If there is no visual analogue to the string glissandos that punctuate the action, then there is a

## OPERA

### A Midsummer Night's Dream Coliseum

real danger of the seams in Britten's score starting to show.

Levine's costumes dictate the treatment of the lovers as figures of farce. Hermia enters in a *Come Dancing* gown with a hat-box, Helena with knitting needles in her hair and Dame Edna specs. The men are out of some nightmare Viennese operetta. You fondly imagine that something is going to happen to them in the course of this *Midsummer Night*, but not the disintegration of their costumes is clumsily managed, they are treated as jokes throughout, and end up the same fatuous people in the same designs as at the beginning. This "idea" can be supported by neither words nor notes.

Carsen falls into the age-old trap of making the artists "funny". In *Pyramus and Thisbe* the humour is in the notes and the words; the addition of coarse visual gags kills both stone dead, and the

result here was about as funny as an open grave. Nor does the fairy world escape unscathed: cute routines for the moustachioed children's choir, and a good deal of "aren't we being naughty" sexual innuendo.

The most dispiriting aspect of the evening is that the musical values are encouragingly high: how sad to see them squandered. The enormously experienced Stuart Bedford knows precisely how this piece should go, paces it cunningly, finds ideal sensuousness for the purple passages, and draws some excellent playing from the orchestra (woodwind on especially good form).

Some members of the promising cast almost manage to rise above their surroundings. Lillian Watson sings Tityania quite beautifully, even when being made to carry on like a sit-com nympho. Christopher Robson is the sound Oberon, and Peter Rose would be a sounder Bottom if he weren't saddled with an ass's head that muffles his voice. The poor lovers — Susan Chilcott, Eirian James, John Graham-Hall and Christopher Booth-Jones — fine singers all, sink virtually without trace. Sad.

RODNEY MILNES



Christopher Robson as Oberon and Lillian Watson as Tityania in Robert Carsen's staging of Britten's opera

## Master of grand gesture

## CONCERT

### CBSO/Wolff Symphony Hall, Birmingham

mon denominator. Kernis does it by constructing a synthesis of gestures which, though they might be empty, are instantly recognisable for what they are intended to represent.

As some of the Birmingham audience already knew from his recent music theatre piece, *Goblin Market*, Kernis is a brilliant craftsman. His writing for string orchestra in *Musica Celestis*, though it strains at credibility at times in its insistence on pitch

extremes, is always highly accomplished.

So is his orchestration in *Invisible Mosaic III*, one of several works inspired by the Byzantine mosaics at Raven-

na. He is as resourceful here in his use of a wide variety of percussion instruments as he is in his manipulations of rhythm. There are episodes, one of them featuring a melodious flute with mainly pitched percussion and darker dabs of colour on piano and pizzicato strings, where he seems to be communicating something exclusively of himself in his own voice. But too often he negates such impressions by taking a ready-made gesture off the nearest shelf.

The ending of *Invisible Mosaic III*, which is more grandiloquent than *The Great Gate* of Kiev, would be vastly out of proportion even in a work of twice the length, twice the emotional content and twice the achievement.

In fact, there was enough ending in this one piece for the whole concert — which in no way deterred the CBSO, the CBS Chorus and the newly formed CBS Youth Chorus from providing another immoderate ending in *Carmina Burana* when the time came in the second half.

GERALD LARNER

### THEATRE: Berkoff the bootboy; and a lively Scottish farce

## Mugger mangles maniac

*Coriolanus*  
West Yorkshire  
Playhouse, Leeds

THE posters bill the play as "directed by and featuring Steven Berkoff". This brings a moment of concern: "featuring" is usual film parlance when a commanding actor is brought in to play some minor role. Would Berkoff be appearing as one of the tribunes, or the hungry plebeian who Menenius calls, in his parable of the body, "the great toe"?

But of course he plays the jackbooted, rancorous hero of the play, and he certainly kicks the text about. Not in the cutting of it, which is skilful: his compression of the banished hero's appearance in the Volscian camp comes swiftly to the essence of the scene. He replaces some words with modern equivalents — "strike" for "flap" — but if there are losses in this, there is no distortion.

What he does distort is his own voice. The snarling roar can eliminate verbal meaning. "You casa casa o'ca!" indicates furious contempt all right, but hardly contains the interest of "You common cry of curs."

When Faith Brook's Volturnus, artfully placatory, tries to shift her son

from his latest snobbish stupidity, she says "Action is eloquence", and this is the text Berkoff applies to his conception of the play. Words are the spur to create scenic images and intriguing movement. *Coriolanus* and his upper-class cronies goose-step to the Capitol, senior officers of the National Patrician party. The plebs advance in a synchronised shuffle. Removing their workmen's trilbys they become the senators: dark glasses turn them into Volscian lords.

Visually the production is always exciting, the mimed fighting especially so. In the

contest with Colin McFarlane's muscular Aufidius the two men immediately lock invisible swords and freeze, neither able to budge the other. The impression of power equalling power is far greater than would be given by the most adroit ducking and thrusting.

But the meaning of the play lies elsewhere, in what we can make of its fascist hero and not in the characters that surround him, however nearly imagined — like the two tribunes who have the look of rodent journalists, Paul Brightwell a sly rat, Boyd Clark an amply fed ooypu. It is to Berkoff we have to turn, Berkoff seething with disgust at the people's smell, their touch: grinningly courteous to his peers but insane. Every gesture of his athlete's body, each decipherable or indecipherable cry, seems designed to persuade us that this human war-machine is a plague upon the earth. But so quirky is his delivery that we need no persuasion. Aufidius stabs his corpse, but Berkoff has killed the character already.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Dazed, or just confused?

*Dumbstruck*  
Lyric, W6

I AM mildly concussed. So many of playwright David Kane's characters are being clonked on the head with the clothes iron, the effect is stupefying. *Dumbstruck*, a farce of Scottish variety acts bumping each other off and humping the regularly-reviving eddies round their seedy 1960s boarding house, has its amusingly bonkers moments. Ultimately though, I am bemused. Why have director Michael Boyd and Glasgow's Tron Theatre bothered to give this script, which needs sharp editing, such a professional staging?

Initially, it seems Kane may be wackily post-modern, slamming short scenes against one another like eccentric non sequiturs. Wilma and Agnes, the wannabe vocalists with the beehives, trudge through looking perfect frights in face-packs (some terribly hideous behaviour from Jenny McCrindle and the other ladies).

Soon, Billy Bones, the dim-witted comedian, is blundering surreptitiously towards the fridge in sloppy

Y-fronts. He crams his mouth with dry cornflakes followed by a swill of milk, and suddenly the man is devil-worshipping for all he is worth.

Meanwhile Johnny Ramone, the crooner with dreams of making it big, bursts into corny numbers. Instantly, showtime footlights glow around the dingy kitchen, still backed by a glum granite street. A mirror ball scatters kitsch magic around the vintage auditorium, as if the Lyric is halfway to hosting bingo (fine design by Tom Piper).

Kane initially yanks the story along, saying to hell with plausibility. Ramone plunges into conveniently instant despair followed as psychodically quickly by egomaniacal vengefulness against his agent and artistic rivals when he downs a bottle of pep pills.

The jerks in plot are presumably meant to be

entertainingly preposterous. What it all looks like, however, is rough writing. Kane has simply bitten off more than he can chew.

There is a strong wave of new writing coming out of Scotland, combining the comic and the gruesome, the cartoony and the hardcore: Simon Donald's *The Life Of Stuff* or Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*. *Dumbstruck* doesn't have their edge.

Still, the cast carry off the show with nifty physical absurdities. Poison victims splat face-down in their cereal. Jimmy Chisholm's Ramone, singing with oily aplomb, twitches with psychotic vanity. He loses momentum occasionally and Robert Patterson seems at a loss as McGubbin, the fervently Christian fraud inspector. But Forbes Masson never slackens as Herman Katz, the macabre illusionist mercy-killing on the side, morbidly deadpan as his accent zigzags between the insanely Germanic and broad Scots.

KATE BASSETT

# TERRY WAITE'S CONFESSIONS.

'PRIVATE PASSIONS' RADIO 3's SATURDAY SERIES IN WHICH CELEBRITIES REVEAL THEIR OWN CLASSICAL FAVOURITES TO MICHAEL BERKELEY.  
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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 19 1995

THEATRE

Farce lives if creakily: the new Scottish play *Dumbstruck* brings black comedy to the stage

... confused

ONS



POP 1

**Veteran flautist Ian Anderson takes a break from Jethro Tull to put money on a classic hopeful**



POP 2

**Elvis Costello raids his own record collection for the inspiration behind his new album, *Kojak Variety***

THE TIMES  
ARTS



POP 3

**Fresh, kooky and unpredictable, the indie-rock band Salad make a fine British CD debut with *Drink Me***



POP 4

**Björk is among the singers who contribute to a beguiling new album of shanties from the Arctic**

Let's explode a rock myth: Ian Anderson did not stand on one leg to play the flute. No, the first time the music got to him in such a way that impersonating a flamingo was the only way he could fully express himself as a musician and, indeed, a human being, he was playing the harmonica.

"It was back in the days before Anderson's band Jethro Tull was even properly Jethro Tull. They were, though, already the hard-rocking-jazz-blues outfit of what would be called 'progressive' rock would soon rush to hear, and Anderson 'used to sort of lay back and go for the high notes and one leg would sort of wave around in the air,' he says. 'Just one of the things you do when you're 19.'"

Music writers started mentioning the flamingo bit in their concert reviews but, somewhere in the mix, it merged with Anderson's other claim to rarity — he played the flute, about as obvious a rock instrument as the ukulele. "I started reading that I was a flute player who stood on one leg," he says. "I hadn't been aware I was doing it, and I was embarrassed; I wanted to be taken as a serious musician. So I stopped doing it for about three weeks. But then I felt people were expecting me to do it because they'd read about it, so I included it in a sort of dutiful way."

These days, the one-legged Pan flautist makes his appearance about three songs into the show. "That's when the photographers get the picture they want and they can clear off

# Taking loving care of business

**Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson tells Chris Campling how to have fun, make music and still be solvent**

and let the people in the front row see properly."

The teenaged Anderson of nearly 30 years ago already knew one thing about making it in the rock biz: give the people what they want. Since then, Jethro Tull, named after the 17th-century inventor of the seed drill, have sold upwards of 40 million albums, collected more than 60 gold and platinum albums, and Anderson is a man of untold wealth (well, he wouldn't tell me, anyway).

Mention of his financial success is important. This man treats music as a business — not terribly cosmic for a product of the hippy-trippy Sixties. But, in a week which saw the first chilling instalment of *The Music Biz*, a grisly portrayal of blood-sucking record companies having their wicked way with idealistic (or dim) pop stars, his capacity to control as much of his life as possible is impressive.



Ian Anderson considers the future of his classical album, *Divinities*: "I could take a caning" is the bottom line from the man with his eye firmly on it

His latest project is a case in point. Now in the shops is a non-Tull Ian Anderson album called *Divinities*. It has not been recorded for Chrysalis, his record label for the past 25 years, but for EMI's classical division. There are no lyrics, and no electrified instruments. Flutes, Pan pipes, strings — all that orchestral stuff — play on a classically informed concept album based on the world's

religions. There are no obvious singles on it, although the beautiful *In Defence of Faiths* could, with words added, become a hymn sung long after Anderson is dead.

Anderson is taking *Divinities* on the road in Europe and America, putting the substantial (in most countries but this weight of his name behind his gamble, but he knows he could be on a loser here. "I

don't get backed by the record company," he says. "I delivered the master tapes and the artwork, for which I get a pretty high royalty rate in classical terms. But if it takes a caning I don't get the cost of making it back. EMI don't get their marketing costs back, and when it tours bumps don't go on seats. Happily, the ticket sales in America are going well."

And how does he know the sales are going well? Because he rings and finds out. "It makes me feel a lot more confident knowing that I have a reasonable amount of control over what I'm going to do," he says. "And if I say I'm going to do a promotional tour or be on a flight, I'll be there. I don't need someone to send a car to fetch me or hold my hand. I set my alarm. I get up,

I go to work. I don't like being treated like a child."

Far too many of today's rock stars know no other way, of course. "It's a vicious circle," Anderson says. "The more record companies treat bands like complete imbeciles the more they behave like them."

So he and his people ring — or fax, or e-mail — to book the venues, flights and hotels around the world in the

months before he tours. And man, do Jethro Tull tour. "There are a lot of new markets in rock'n'roll," Anderson says. "India, South America, Czechoslovakia, South Africa... You do India, then go on to Australia, by way of Hong Kong, then, since you're travelling that way anyway, maybe you'll nip into Hawaii, then carry on across America. It makes sense to tour that way, not just for the band but for the crew and equipment. You get better air deals, freight deals, that type of thing."

You must surely also get pretty tired. Why not stay at home, record a little, gig a bit, and keep a friendly eye on the Scottish salmon-smoking business that now pulls in £12 million a year? "Because it's fun," he says.

Fun is the reason for a lot of what Anderson does. The qualms about putting *Divinities* before a possibly less-than-thrilled public are stilled by the fun of writing, arranging and recording it, and the anticipation of playing it on stage. After all, the business he is in is rock'n'roll. "I don't think they are separate beings," he says. "Being onstage is a mixture of being a man at work and having a lot of fun. I know things have been taken care off because I'm the guy that's been doing it. I know about the ticket counts and the press and the security arrangements and who's getting backstage passes. I don't have a thing to worry about, other than falling over."

● Ian Anderson plays *Divinities* at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on May 24

## Costello's aim is skew

**ELVIS COSTELLO**  
*Kojak Variety*  
(Warner Bros. 9362-45903)

THROWING his hat into an over-crowded ring, Elvis Costello is the latest pop star to indulge in an album of cover versions. But his choice of songs on the mysteriously titled *Kojak Variety* reveals some fairly obscure enthusiasms.

"I found *Strange on the B-side* of a Screaming Jay Hawkins single on Roulette," he declares in the sleeve notes, which provide a detailed commentary on the provenance of all 15 selections. It is a voyage which takes the listener across some mixed terrain: from the dark, bluesy swing of Mose Allison's *Everybody's Crying Mercy* and the pub-rock shuffle of James Carr's *Pouring Water On A Drowning Man*, to the unabashed crooning of the Nat "King" Cole standard *The Very Thought of You*. Although undertaken in a

**NEW ALBUMS**

spirit of enthusiasm and adventure, there is a curiously reductive quality to Costello's performances as he flits from Little Richard's rock'n'roll stomper, *Bama Lama Bama Loo* to the maudlin strains of the Lovin' Brothers' *Must You Throw Dirt In My Face* (a country song performed as an R&B ballad). You hum, it mates, he'll play it.

And even allowing for more familiar inclusions — Bob Dylan's *I Threw It All Away* and an overwrought version of Ray Davies' *Days* — the album is more of an archaeological dig than a celebration of a "great" body of songs.

and former MTV presenter Marjane van der Vlugt. Their debut (British) album, *Drink Me*, forges an erratic path between the cheerful, alternative pop of Sleeper and the wilfully obscure doodlings of the Breeders.

Sometimes, as on *Overhear Me*, they sound sweet and innocent. At others they bash out the chords with punky bravado — as on the recent single *Drink The Elbow*. But with three writers in the line-up — Van der Vlugt, guitarist Paul Kennedy and former House of Love drummer Rob Wakeman — the only real surprise is that Salad's music is not subject to greater stylistic fluctuations.

Whatever the mood of the moment, their lyrics provide an unfailingly left-field touch: "I'm now an apple, that suits me fine/And I'm out of line/But we'll all be fine." Van der Vlugt sings in *Muscleman*. Sense is often elusive and there is little meat on the bone, but Salad is definitely the crisp and fresh option.

**HECTOR ZAZOU**  
*Songs from the Cold Seas*  
(Columbia COL 477585)

RENOWNED for his musical travelogues, the French composer and producer Hector Zazou turns his attention to the music of the frozen north. *Songs from the Cold Seas* is an extraordinary compendium of traditional ballads, sailors' airs and other ancient tunes collected from Scandinavia, Greenland, Alaska, the Shetland Islands and elsewhere, as performed by a variety of singers, including Björk, Suzanne Vega, John Cale and Siouxsie Sioux.

The many astonishing vocal performances have been spliced to atmospheric, electronic and percussion backing tracks created at a later stage by Zazou.

The result is a painstakingly assembled and lavishly presented package which opens a window on the bleak beauty of an alien musical world.

**BUSH**  
*Sixteen Stone*  
(Trauma/Interscope 6544-92531)

BUSH are as British as bangers and mash (their name is a diminutive of Shepherds Bush), but grungier than a pair of Eddie Vedder's underpants. They have triumphed in America with their debut, *Sixteen Stone*, by scrupulously mimicking the Seattle sound and then applying a popular gloss to the formula.

To call them a poor man's Pearl Jam might be to impugn the begging classes and yet Bush carry off the ruse very adroitly, dishing out precisely the required mix of heavy-weight riffing and morbid angst on tracks such as *Swim, Bomb and Glycerine*. In Britain, though, where grunge took root latest and least, it will not rescue them from a career of glorious obscurity.

DAVID SINCLAIR

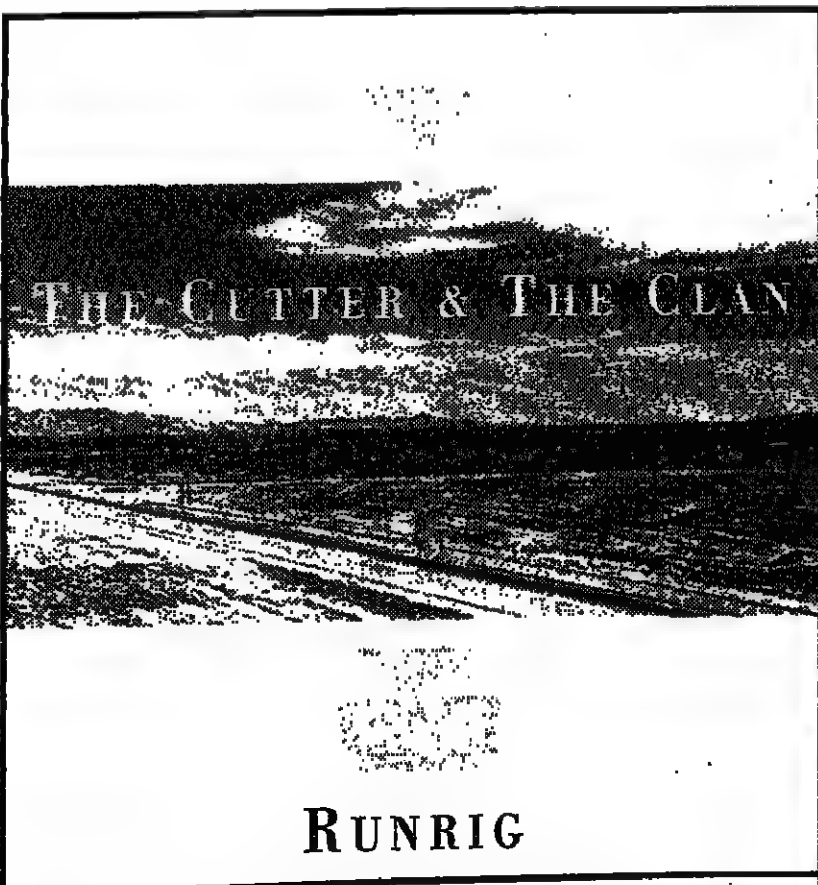


Elvis Costello digs through his more obscure souvenirs on his mysteriously titled new album, *Kojak Variety*

### FORBIDDEN ALBUMS

- 1 Stanley Road..... Paul Weller (Goli Discs)
- 2 Nobody Else..... Take That (RCA)
- 3 I Should Coco..... Supergrass (Parlophone)
- 4 The Colour Of My Love..... Celine Dion (Epic)
- 5 Definitely Maybe..... Oasis (Creation)
- 6 Greatest Hits..... Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)
- 7 Picture This..... Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
- 8 Dummy..... Portishead (Goli Discs)
- 9 No Need To Argue..... Cranberries (Island)
- 10 The Complete Stone Roses..... Stone Roses (Silvertone)

Compiled by MRS



## Runrig 'The Cutter & The Clan'

Originally released in 1987 *The Cutter & The Clan* was Runrig's breakthrough album. It not only confirmed their status as stars in their native Scotland but secured their deal with Chrysalis Records which endures to this day.

This splendid album has become high-profile again due to the use of the final track 'An Ubbhal as Airde' (The Highest Apple) in the Carlsberg 'Beach Cricket' TV ad which provided Runrig with their first top 20 hit.

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## JETHRO TULL'S IAN ANDERSON

THE PIED PIPER OF ROCK

### DIVINITIES

TWELVE DANCES WITH GOD

12 CLASSICALLY INSPIRED TRACKS FOR FLUTE AND ORCHESTRA

"Lovingly played and arranged" AT

LIVE DATE OF DIVINITIES AND TULL FAVORITES SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE MAY 24



## WEEKEND

Kate Westbrook will be there, as will many other big names in jazz and classical music the Bath Festival opens



## WEEKEND

A new perspective on the French Impressionists as the Hayward Gallery opens its big new show

## THE TIMES ARTS



## WEEKEND

Dame Gwyneth Jones dons the greasepaint at the Freemasons' Hall for a night of Wagnerian fun

## POP

What does a one-hit-wonder do next? Life after *Creep* has turned out fine for Radiohead

## Carve their Nayims with pride

Radiohead had scored with *Creep*; but it took a thriller of a long-player to fill their cup in extra time

Those in the Know were composing litany of praise to Radiohead two years ago. God knows where their certainty came from: after a patchy debut album and a blockbuster of a single, *Creep*, those blessed with ultimate wisdom were proclaiming them genius troubadours of those Long Dark Nights of the Soul which seem to come upon us more and more as the world spins ever faster to the dull treble-noise of the year 2000.

I was not in the Know. I crossed fields at festivals to avoid Radiohead. I snuck and smirked at Radiohead passion. I channel-surfed to avoid their regular and increasingly jaded performances of *Creep* on every TV pop-circus. And it seems that the only people more bored and disillusioned with Radiohead than myself were, um, Radiohead.

Jonny Greenwood, another Radiohead guitarist, shudders. "Doing acoustic versions of *Creep* for radio station jingles," he says, "being the *Creep* people." He shudders again.

But what does a one-hit-wonder pop band do when its much saturation point and the public, as one turns its head? Radiohead's two follow-up singles didn't do too well at all, and, like last week's Arsenal v Real Zaragoza Cup Winners' Cup final, it appeared to be All Over. But then, 90 seconds from the end of Radiohead's extra-time on their 15 minutes of fame, they — like Nayim — curled a splendour-kissed ball from the halfway line, right over the outstretched hands of the critics, and GOAL! *The Bends* hit the back of the net and all those watching could scarcely believe their eyes. It was repeated again and again. Rewind, play, rewind, play...

*The Bends* is easily the greatest rock album since *Nevermind*. It very possibly had over-shadows *Nevermind*. If we still had things as outdated as "eras," then *The Bends* would define it. It claws at the skies and gets clouds caught behind its nails; it grinds its hips into the ground; it burns. It soothes. It heats the blood to 1,000 degrees and watches with delight as



Down and out to have a good time: Radiohead reflect on a real Zaragoza of a time in pop's premier league

your veins explode. There's rarely been this much passion, this much strip-knuckled emotion in a 50-minute LP. And I used to think they were too. I have never felt so foolish in my life.

But with this much passion on display, and for the frequently homesick-for-the-womb and sick-to-the-heart-of-touring lyrics ("Mould me/Heat the pins/And stab them in/You have turned me into this/I just wish I was bulletproof... This machine will not communicate/These thoughts/And the strain I am under... Now I can't climb the stairs/Pieces missing everywhere/Prozac/Painkillers/When you've got to feel it in your bones"), some have proclaimed *The Bends* to be the third in the triumvirate of 1990s Depression Albums, along with Manic Street Preachers' *Holy Bible* and Nirvana's *In Utero*.

It has been posited that singer Thom Yorke is manically depressed/mentally

fragile/the next great rock'n'roll suicide. "Nah," Yorke says, trying to rest his elbow on the table, and missing by only a few inches. It is 2am in Rome. Radiohead's roadie is drinking that paint-stripper-as-a-beverage, grappa.

The band is sticking to red wine. Lots of it. They don't seem like they spend their free time sobbing into handkerchiefs and staring wildly-eyed at the moon. They're all university graduates. They know how to relax. They are consummate professionals. And they're all charming, funny and polite. I love polite pop-stars. Trashing a hotel room isn't rock'n'roll, it's just a pain in the arse for some maid with kids to feed.

Anyway, Radiohead aren't going to waste into the sea with rocks in their pockets. The reason why *The Bends* seems to chart such a wealth of emotional lows with such veracity is because we have, finally, started to breed pop-stars who don't have to live

out instability and depression in order to write about it. Radiohead are, simply, musical geniuses with very good imaginations.

"Some of the press has been absurd," Yorke says. "We get people coming up to us, quoting that line 'I wish it was the Sixties/I wish I could be happy/I wish/I wish/That something would happen' from the song *The Bends*. We wrote that line as a joke. We were taking the mick. We all found that song hilarious."

That's not to say the album's a sham — I've been through some really bad times, and I wrote about them — but I hate these self-playing rock stars who run headlong into situations that damage them, and then while about it, I've no sympathy. It's so easy to be miserable. Being happy is tougher — and cooler."

It also happens to sound marvellous on record.

● The single *Fake Plastic Trees* is released on Monday by Parlophone. Radiohead play the Glasgow T-in-the-Park festival (Aug 5-6) and support R.E.M. on their UK dates



CAITLIN MORAN

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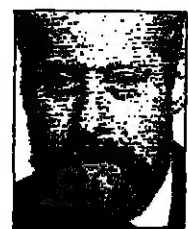








# Champagne end to test of endurance



FREUD  
ON FRIDAY

I expect you know the route: leaving the start make for Corners Gate, ride on to Spire Cross, through Winsford, Howe Town, Coppleham, Kennisham Hill, pass Pool Town and Gallox Bridge up Grabbist to Wootton Courtenay, Brockwell, Stoke Pero, then Dady Combe, Oareford over Stowey Common to Alderman's Barrow and the finishing line.

After that contestants have half an hour before vetting, the Ridgeway test, the announcement of the horse's pulse rate... and the cheers or the tears.

The Golden Horseshoe is the pinnacle of the endurance riding year and happened on Exmoor this week. In class one, which is for the most serious competitors, the horses pass a veterinary examination on Sunday evening, complete the 50-mile loop on Monday at an average speed of not less than eight miles per hour, are vetted when they return and do this all over again on Tuesday.

To complete is to win... but to be among the gold medalists, the speed must have been over the minimum and the pulse rate after the Ridgeway in which the horse is trotted 30 yards up the road and 30 yards back, below 55 per minute.

Fifty-five to 64 costs a penalty point: over 64 gets you an E — which stands for elimination.



An anxious Karen Vernon awaits the result of the veterinary inspection on her mount. Photograph: Julian Herbert

tion, though if you suspect the worst you can volunteer for a W — which signifies withdrawal.

There were about fifty entries in class 1. Sue Dando got gold on her fifth attempt on the same liver-chestnut mare, Vixen. In 1991 they went too fast and were "spun" (vet-speak for deeming a horse unfit to compete).

A year later they got bronze: one speed fault, one pulse penalty; and last year it was silver — in 1993 missing gold by a single extra heartbeat.

Now they had done it. Vixen

was rubbed down and fed and watered and blanketed and cosseted and her rider came out of the pouring rain into the marquee, sopping wet and blue with cold and gave me a tiny frozen hand to shake. I asked if she was all right; she said: "I feel absolutely nothing but joy."

What made the difference? "I changed her feed and put some extra work into her and the weather helped; also I was more confident — so tonight we celebrate. My crew has cancelled her journey home, rebooked her hotel room and bought champagne."

Dando says that the first day was glorious and on the second, despite the rain, there was just about the right amount of "give" on the moors to please the mare.

The Dando "team" consists of horse and rider; husband and a friend, a dog, two cars and a trailer.

One or other of the support vehicles meets her at each of the 11 stopping places to provide recuperation, encouragement, tactical advice and decree as much rest as the clock allows.

The eight miles per hour is nicely achieved by trotting, but

you cannot trot for 50 miles and for every minute of walking you need a similar length of time at the canter. The terrain is in turn hilly and boggy and slippery; there is a stream to cross, a riverbank to negotiate, traffic lights to observe on the A396 at Dunster Castle.

As the starting times are staggered, it is a straight contest against the clock; who is in front or behind is irrelevant. Tactics to suit your horse are all important.

In the marquee is one of the least mechanised scoreboards in the West Country. This

shows the names of competitors inscribed in Pentel and their starting time, finishing time, average speed and vet's findings written in the same thick ink as the information filters through.

The final column tells you how it is: in class 1, half a dozen golds, a similar number of silvers and the rest eliminated or withdrawn.

To one side of the board is a bar selling all you would need in the way of drink, including 5.7 degree Darroor best bitter straight from the barrel.

At the other end is a counter where I bought a slice of ham and egg pie and a plate of chips — rather expensive at £7.50... until the man who had served me said: "I made a mistake; that was a £10 note you gave me" and handed me a fiver.

The homemade chocolate cake at 95p looked good.

As the last riders came back through the bucketing rain, the buzz in the marquee was interrupted by squeals of delight from without as the team which had satisfied the timekeeper heard that it had passed the vet also.

At the awards ceremony later that evening successful contestants received appropriately coloured medallions and they announced the winner of the 1995 Hilton Herbs Golden Horseshoe Ride Premier prize — which goes to the horse and rider who have not just done all the right things at the correct speed within the required pulse rate, but to "the horse which in the opinion of the veterinary panel is best capable of travelling a further 25 miles."

How the rider would feel about this extra distance does not enter the reckoning but those to whom I spoke explained that stiffness and soreness go by the board in the euphoria of completing. There is also a remedy called arnica which works wonders.

## Faldo's criticisms rebutted by director of PGA Tour

FROM MEL WEBB  
IN MADRID

THE multimillionaires of European golf have had their say about what they perceive as a loss of direction by the PGA European Tour in the last decade of the 20th century. Yesterday it was the turn of the tour's executive director to reply, and he was not pulling his punches.

Ken Schofield, who has been at the helm of European

professional golf for 20 years, was answering criticisms made recently by Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazábal and fuelled by Nick Faldo's comments from the United States on Wednesday.

Faldo said that there was now a "comfort zone" on the domestic tour. "I guess in some cases it is too easy for a guy to make a nice living and say: 'I don't want to be a superstar. I can enjoy myself, pay the mortgage and put the

kids through a good school," he said. "We are all 37 or 38 and in a few more years when we are gone there will be a massive void on the tour."

Schofield, who had a three-hour meeting with Olazábal, Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer on Wednesday, was not having that. "Not everyone can be a superstar," he said. "I'm positive that every player is trying his hardest to win — I certainly don't believe there is a comfort zone."

When Schofield moved into his job in 1975 annual prize money was £611,000. This year tour members are playing for more than £25 million.

which makes Schofield uniquely qualified to talk about the allegation that quality is being sacrificed for quantity. "It is very hurtful to hear that sort of thing," he said. "We have been trying to extend the season since 1986, and we constantly endeavour to get the early part of it as good as we can. We want quantity and quality, but we're living in the real world here."

Schofield was supported by Peter Mitchell, who led the Spanish Open at the Club de Campo by a shot after the first round, having handed in a 66 that contained three eagles. "It's all right for them to say that sort of thing," he said.

"They should talk to one or two of the guys here who are trying to make their way with barely a penny behind them."

"The only way sponsorship money is going to rise is for the best players to come out and play in all the tournaments. It's easy to criticise when you're guaranteed money to play." Second set to Schofield and Mitchell, 6-0.

FIRST-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ireland listed): 66: P. Mitchell (67); G. Olazábal (68); J. Ballesteros (69); S. Ballesteros (70); J. Olazábal (71); J. Olazábal (72); J. Olazábal (73); J. Olazábal (74); J. Olazábal (75); J. Olazábal (76); J. Olazábal (77); J. Olazábal (78); J. Olazábal (79); J. Olazábal (80); J. Olazábal (81); J. Olazábal (82); J. Olazábal (83); J. Olazábal (84); J. Olazábal (85); J. Olazábal (86); J. Olazábal (87); J. Olazábal (88); J. Olazábal (89); J. Olazábal (90); J. Olazábal (91); J. Olazábal (92); J. Olazábal (93); J. Olazábal (94); J. Olazábal (95); J. Olazábal (96); J. Olazábal (97); J. Olazábal (98); J. Olazábal (99); J. Olazábal (100); J. Olazábal (101); J. Olazábal (102); J. Olazábal (103); J. Olazábal (104); J. Olazábal (105); J. Olazábal (106); J. Olazábal (107); J. Olazábal (108); J. Olazábal (109); J. Olazábal (110); J. Olazábal (111); J. Olazábal (112); J. Olazábal (113); J. Olazábal (114); J. Olazábal (115); J. Olazábal (116); J. Olazábal (117); J. 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# Portraits of failure with the ring of truth

There is a line in Chekhov — and I can't find it. I've wasted hours — about the people raising an enormous bell. The context is a mood of deep discouragement, and then someone says, "The people raised an enormous bell." The thought appears unfinished, but is nevertheless complete. I believe it was said about Andrei in *Three Sisters*, who turned out in middle life to be quite ordinary and human, despite all the hopes pinned on him. But perhaps it's *Uncle Vanya*. Anyway, this enormous bloody bell just rolled and swung, and cracked and banged through last night's television, as two great characters were obliged by their human failings to let the people down. I speak of John Thaw (Bong) as the Labour Party leader in David Hare's brilliantly focused *The Absence of War* (BBC 2), and — who else? — Diego Maradona on Channel 4.

Maradona can wait a bit, but *The Absence of War* began telling us some real bones from Big Ben: the Cenotaph on the box. The deceased (or retired) George Jones watches the televised ceremony from his high-rise Kensington flat, and leans his head on a doorman. The commentary speaks of sacrifice for the greater good, and Thaw — who personally lost an election — faces the double misery of sacrificing yourself and still losing. On the screen, his suave successor, Richard Pascoe, holds a poppy wreath against his dark coat like a natural Tory. Pascoe is a smooth man, while Thaw was a hairy. Yet, like a true Labourite, he backed Thaw in the doomed campaign. "The Tories get rid of their leaders; we hold on to ours."

We have got used to the idea that political drama on television will offer certain rules. It will use authentic sets (or Westminster itself), it will be about jockeying

within government, and it will feature key actors (Colin Jeavons springs to mind) who in bestiary form would comprise foxes, snakes and hares — all with teeth like needles. By bringing *The Absence of War* to the screen, the director Richard Eyre introduced viewers to more than just an unfamiliar group of superb actors; he also reminded us that politics reflects a desire for effectiveness, and posed the novel idea: how would a well-meaning goat get on in this arena, if he had the chance?

Because the extraordinary thing about *The Absence of War* was that it largely eschewed the usual intrigue. Yes, there was a red herring about Pascoe (had he split beans to a hostile BBC interviewer?) but the crux of Jones's failure was elsewhere: how can a genuine socialist pretend to be electable, and not break down under the strain?

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

In the place of back-biting, there was companionship. Jones's team followed their champion with buckets, towels and encouragement. They worked together, they even liked each other, they were nice people — Barbara Leigh-Hunt bustling with his diary, Claire Higgins trying to polish his image, Oliver Ford-Davies directing campaign strategy, Saskia Wickham adorning him. Nobody

fell in love, nobody revealed himself to be an enemy agent in deep cover. As leader, Thaw spent most of his time taking home truths on the chin. "You are boring," they told him; "economics is not your strong point." This was all going to be worth it, apparently, when the results came in.

I mentioned the acting, Martin Jarvis was chillingly brilliant as the television interviewer, outclassing and surgically exposing his guest, while the hench-people grained in another room. As for John Thaw, his south London accent performed its usual catch-me-if-you-can, but otherwise this was the best performance I've seen. Eyre gave him lots of silent suffering close-ups, which worked a treat. If Jones ultimately lacked authority, it was in the writing, not the performance. As it was, it was absolutely necessary that his hench-people gazed approvingly, or kept mentioning his charisma, because

Hare showed us no triumphs, only catastrophes.

Jones's great theatrical outburst at the end of *The Absence of War* concerned the political trap he was in. "Why can't I speak of what I believe?" he raged. This enforced diplomatic silence was his tragedy, while over on Channel 4, it was Diego Maradona's habit of opening his big trap which had fixed things regularly for him. Unlike *The Absence of War*, however, this *True Stories* did provide solid evidence for the hero's popularity — in particular the miraculous second Argentina goal against England in the 1986 World Cup, in which slow-motion photography revealed Maradona running through the defence at normal speed.

Nowadays, after bans and scandals, Maradona paces the touchline in a manager's suit and yells

abuse at the referee. It is not fun to watch, as falls from glory never are. He has filled out around the chest, and his dangle earring begins to give him the look of a pimp. But he is still the most famous footballer in the world, the saviour of Argentine self-esteem, and the miracle-worker who took Naples to an Italian league and cup double. In terms of popularity, he is tireless but adored, and endlessly forgiven.

That he should have delusions is no surprise at all. What is amazing is that they are mainly paranoid. Sadly, *True Stories* played opposite *The Absence of War*, because Maradona nicely demonstrated for David Hare what a real firebrand does when confronted with pesky journalists. Whereas George Jones floundered and sweated in his BBC swivel, Maradona aimed an air-fire at the crowd around his gate and simply pulled the trigger.

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (23638)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1076903)
  - 9.05 Kilroy Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (1034819)
  - 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7875426) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (1) (Ceefax) (1190258)
  - 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick Weekday magazine series (1) (4897722)
  - 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9658890) 12.05 Pebble Mill (1) (5745987) 12.50 Regional News and weather (15000242)
  - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (93548) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (1) (6230770)
  - 1.50 Going for Gold. The question-master is Henry Kelly (1) (6870774) 2.15 The Flying Doctors. Australian medical drama series (1) (Ceefax) (1) (4074652) Wales (to 4.10): Welsh Labour Party Conference (1995153) 3.00 Gourmet Ireland. Jeanne and Paul Rankin prepare quick television snacks (1) (8513)
  - 3.30 Cartoon (594258) 3.45 Dinobabies (1) (8295722) 4.10 X-Men (Ceefax) (1) (2679451) 4.30 Round the Twist (1) (Ceefax) (1) (1628900)
  - 4.55 Newsround (Ceefax) (7076451) 5.05 Blue Peter. Includes details of a Bank Holiday event, the largest that the programme has organised. (Ceefax) (1) (1431180)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (1) (641848)
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (108) 6.30 Regional news magazines (161)
  - 7.00 The Weekend Show. A series celebrating quirky Britain (1) (4722)
  - 7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes a report from Vladivostok on the fight to save the rare Amur leopard from extinction. (Ceefax) (1) (345)
  - 8.00 Lovejoy. Ian McShane stars as the dodgy antiques dealer (1) (Ceefax) (1) (448074)
  - 8.50 TV Heroes. Dany Baker in praise of election night television presenters. (Ceefax) (1) (54151)
  - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9187)
  - 9.30 999 (Ceefax) (1) (829258)



Johnson, Glover and Dafos (10.25pm)

- 10.25 FILM: *Flight of the Intruder* (1991) starring Danny Glover, Brad Johnson and William Dalton. Vietnam War drama about the arrival of a daredevil fighter pilot who inspires his demoralised colleagues to lead a raid on Hanoi despite a strict ceasefire during the Paris peace talks. Directed by John Mills. (Ceefax) (1) (681635) Wales: The Dream (304797) 10.55 FILM: *Flight of the Intruder* (1991) (1) (681635) 11.00 FILM: *Nothing But the Night* (1975) starring Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing and Diana Dora. Horror story of a group of children who become killers after being injected with a serum and terrorise London. Directed by Peter Sasdy (443198)
- 1.40 Weather (9169730)

- VARIATIONS**
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Warwickshire opening pair enjoy themselves on Durham's big day

## Moles digs in on new ground

By PAT GIBSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss). Warwickshire have scored 240 for two wickets against Durham

DENNIS SILK, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, called it a miracle. A new cricket ground which will be capable of staging international matches before the turn of the century had risen from a field on the banks of the Wear and pilgrims from all corners of the English game could hardly believe their eyes.

They were all there: Silk and his chief executive, Alan Smith; the secretary of MCC, Roger Knight; even representatives of those five big clubs who might prefer to see counties such as Durham playing in a championship second division. Let them all come to Chester-le-Street.

The Riverside ground is an inspiring example of what can be achieved with zeal and foresight or, as David Craveny, general secretary of

Big five's plans ..... 40  
Lancashire recover ..... 40  
Hott upstaged ..... 40

the Cricketers' Association, who cut the first sod as Durham's captain only three years ago, put it: "In cricket, people do a lot of talking and nothing is done. This is an example of how people take action and get things done."

Significantly, the driving force behind the development was Don Robson, leader of Durham County Council, chairman of Durham County Cricket Club and, as chairman of the National Cricket Association, a man who intends to have his say in any restructuring of English cricket. Even he could scarcely comprehend just what had been accomplished in so short a time.

The ground, which has already cost £4 million and will need another £9 million spending on it, is nothing like finished. Only the first of four "modules" which will ring the boundary has been completed but that is impressive enough, a pavilion complex with state-of-the-art dressing-rooms, hospitality suites, members' areas and administrative of-



Moles and Knight, of Warwickshire, walk out to face the first balls bowled in championship cricket at the Riverside ground, Chester-le-Street

fices, all looking out over the river towards the backdrop of Lumley Castle.

"I've lived with this every day for the last few years but I never thought it would be like this," Robson said. "The whole of the North-East is represented here today: local industry, the universities, the schools. It's all part of the structure of the local community and it's incredible the goodwill there is. Sport has got to recognise it and encourage it."

The goodwill was reflected by the woman who turned up with embroidered towels for the ladies' toilets, by the gardener who arrived with flowers for the sponsors' boxes and by the followers of county cricket who travelled hundreds of miles to join around

3,000 Durham members in seeing the first ball bowled. Typical of them was George Williams, a retired officer in the Church Army from Torquay, who said: "Isn't it marvellous? It's such a lovely setting with the castle on one side and the ancient parish church on the other."

Whether the Durham players were able to enjoy the scenery is another matter. The castle has been there since the 13th century, but Andy Moles seems to have been rock-solid at the top of the Warwickshire batting order for just about as long. He was to dominate the proceedings when the Riverside's first day of Britannia Assurance County Championship cricket got under way without fuss or ceremony.

It is only two years since the groundsmen, Tom Flintoff, sowed his first seeds, but already the pitch was good and true, apart from a slight suggestion of uneven but far

from dangerous bounce. Moles and Knight took advantage of it by putting on 172 in the first 60 overs.

It was fitting that Wood, one of the Durham-born players who will benefit from this development, took the first wicket, when Knight tried to pull him and sent a top edge steeply to second slip. He had been there 21 minutes for his 89 and Moles was to stay for another 103 minutes before Brown had him caught at slip for 90.

History had been made, but Durham clearly have a lot more work to do. "It's the end of the romance," Geoff Cook, their director of cricket said yesterday, "and down to the practicalities of building a cricket club."

Chris Rea, the former Scotland rugby union international, has been appointed assistant secretary of MCC, with responsibility for public relations and marketing.

## Headingley to receive £30 million face-lift

HEADINGLEY, the joint home of Yorkshire cricket and Leeds rugby league clubs for a century, is to undergo a £30 million face-lift. Work on phase one, a 2,000-seat cricket members' pavilion, will begin later this year.

The pavilion, with a cricket museum, club shop, bar, restaurant and 24 hospitality suites, is the first building block in a wholesale redevelopment of the cricket and adjoining rugby ground, which will be turned into a 25,000 all-seater stadium under plans announced yesterday.

In cricket's case, the redevelopment means seating capacity for 20,000 people in a partially double-tier arena and the disappearance of the pitch perimeter walkway.

Chris Hassell, Yorkshire's chief executive, said the price of upgrading in line with other Test venues would be to use Headingley more and to exclude some of the county's other cricket grounds.

The Rugby Football Union has reportedly made inquiries about playing representative matches at Headingley and Leeds, the Courage Clubs Championship division four side, could make the ground their permanent home.

Funding is a delicate matter, but with Yorkshire revitalised by the emergence of Darren Gough as a Test fast bowler and Leeds guaranteed £4.5million from the rugby league Super League, there is sufficient money to get the project started.

## European cup to take shape next season

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN DURBAN

RUGBY UNION will embrace a variety of agendas during the forthcoming World Cup in South Africa: not only the third tournament in the series but the future of the game in different parts of the world will come under the microscope of administrators, not all of whom take a global view.

In Cape Town today, for example, representatives of the three Southern Hemisphere powers will meet to determine a competitive way forward together. It replicates, on a broader scale, the decision taken this week by the five nations of the Northern Hemisphere to begin an embryo European cup tournament and acknowledges that rugby union must extend its boundaries.

Some commentators here have interpreted the Cape Town meeting, the second in a series which began this month in Sydney, as having professionalism as its main thrust. Were matters entirely in New Zealand's hands, that might be so, but Australia and South Africa would rather find a way of grafting an international tournament on to existing provincial tournaments.

In exactly the same way, the north's five nations have accepted the need to extend the club game into Europe and will inaugurate a competition for club and representative teams during the 1996-97 season. A pilot tournament is likely to be played next season involving sides from Wales, France and possibly Scotland and Italy, the Rugby Football Union having denied the ambitions of Bath and Leicester to help in the gestation of a European cup.

A working party will put forward by August details of the scheme proposed for 1996 but there may be elements of the proposals already engineered by the sport's marketing group, Carnegie Quintus, which has run the Super 10 tournament in the Southern Hemisphere. The five nations committee, however, has stated that no "outside agency" will have anything to do with the regulation or organisation of the competition.

All such plans will be put on the back burner, however, when the World Cup begins next Thursday. Argentina, England's first opponents next week, were the last of the 16

countries to arrive yesterday in a hot and sticky Durban. After their overnight flight, England waited until the cool of the evening before their first training run on the King's Park 8 pitch, simulating what they hope will be conditions for their three pool games.

"We have worked hard to adapt our game during a successful season at home and I think we are ready," Jack Rowell, the manager, said. He will be giving much thought to selection in the coming days: "We can't say we will rest players for this game or that you have to win each game. We need to see how people settle in and how sharp they are but we are fit physically, fit mentally and, very important, we are fresh."

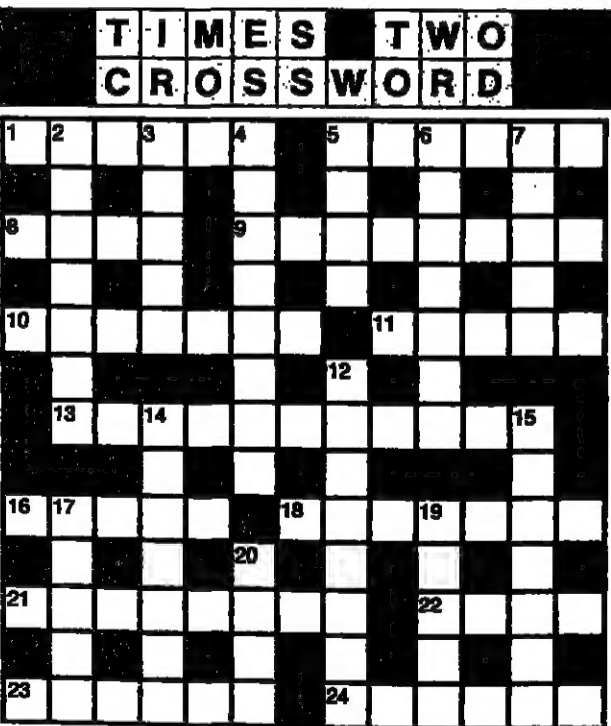
Will Carling — introduced yesterday as the "new England captain" in a jovial reference to his three-day sus-



Carling: optimistic

pension two weeks ago, added: "There is a desire in this English squad after the staggering success of the last five years, to go to the next level by beating the Southern Hemisphere countries as regularly as we defeat some nations in Europe. It would take a supreme effort physically and mentally. But we are capable of doing it, though we will need a share of luck."

The arrival of the Argentines was a reminder of the first hurdle to be overcome, tomorrow week. They are well prepared after the Pan-American tournament in March and their tour to Australia in April, and Alejandro Petra, their coach, believes his players to be in a stronger position than four years ago: "Our team here has most of those who played in 1991 but now they have four years extra experience," he said.



No 474

## ACROSS

- 1 Perfumed powder for body (6)  
5 A Movement: a city; dark (blue) (6)  
8 Normal (vision) (2/2)  
9 Stick/ball game (8)  
10 Children's deficiency disease (7)  
11 Booth (5)  
13 Sewing-item seller (11)  
16 A romp ... (5)  
18 ... a bout of dissipation (7)  
21 Unexpected event (8)  
22 Clothing (4)  
23 Cultural evening (at private house) (6)

## DOWN

- 24 The Great West: Jack ... US writer (6)  
2 Do away with (7)  
3 Timing device (5)  
4 Of the army (8)  
5 Cry of pain (4)  
6 Silly (7)  
7 Biscuits for babies (5)  
12 Goodbye (8)  
14 Portable paging device (7)  
15 David ... 19C economist, free-trader (7)  
17 Cartoon dog; planet (5)  
19 Element Ar, an inert gas (5)  
20 Skin; conceal (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 473

- ACROSS: 1 At all costs 9 Unquiet 10 Outdo 11 Rail  
12 Burnt out 14 Exhort 15 Haunch 18 Sidestep 20 Span  
22 Alarm 23 Imagine 24 Fiancée  
DOWN: 2 Trim 3 Let out 4 Crown cap 5 Set to 6 Short-changed 7 Quarterstaff 8 Squint 13 Freshman 16 Napkin 17 Belief 19 Diana 21 Ball

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## Equable Davies finds the going slow on return to home patch

By JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LAURA DAVIES came down to earth at Chart Hills, Kent, when the erratic weather in the country of her birth, the speed of play on her home tour and the slow greens on the Nick Faldo-designed course all contributed to making the opening round of her first tournament in Britain this year, the Ford Golf Classic, a salutary experience.

Not that Davies minded particularly. After her 73, one over par, she was as cheery and equable as if she had gone round in 70 and been only two strokes behind Tracy Loveys and Susan Hodge, formerly Shapcott, instead of five. Perhaps her equanimity is one of the reasons why Davies is so successful and why she seems able to cope with almost anything that comes her way.

Slow play is a scourge of the modern game. Davies, Catrin Nilsmark-Wickberg and Helen Wadsworth, three naturally quick players, took four hours and forty minutes to play 18 holes.

Even allowing for the fact that some tees are a good distance from the previous green and that the gusting, cold and occasionally damp conditions slowed play, an average of nearly 16 minutes for each hole is sluggish. No wonder Davies, Wadsworth and Nilsmark-Wickberg, the defending champion, were an aggregate of eight over par. It is hard to retain concentration when waiting before playing every stroke.

One of Davies's appealing characteristics is that she is prepared to talk on almost any subject. In an era when professional golfers are inclined to



Davies, who struggled to find form in the first round of the Ford Golf Classic. Photograph: Magi Haroun

introspection, Davies's openness is refreshing. Often though, she ends up by contradicting herself. And this is precisely what happened on the subject of slow play yesterday.

"It was slow," Davies said at first. "It is always slow. We

were waiting on every shot. The group behind us didn't see us for dust."

But then Davies said: "Four and three quarter hours is about standard. Every tour is slow. This was not a particularly slow round. It was chilly in the middle of the

round but you get used to it."

Davies drew the biggest gallery of the day and rewarded them with some prodigious hitting. The four par fives were all within reach in two, though she birdied only two of them. On the 385-yard 10th hole, she went straight at the green, comfortably clearing a row of bunkers that looked so intimidating from the tee. Her drive finished 100 yards from the flag.

## SCORES

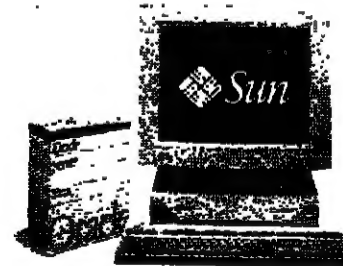
FIRST ROUND (65 and tie unless stated). 65: T. Loveys, S. Hodge. 66: F. Descombes (Bel), E. Noun (Sp). 70: W. Doonan (Aus), K. Webb (Aus), L. Faldo (Eng), J. Furby, 71: D. Barnard, M. L. de Lora (Fr), T. Johnson, D. Eklund (US), C. Heilmann (Swe), K. Grun (Den), 72: N. Mout, M. Koch (Ger), K. Davies, C. Hall, E. Orley (Swi), S. Prosser, L. Navarro (Sp), D. Reid, L. Lambert (Aus), S. Barnett, 73: S. Burrell, A. Armit (Sp), R. Heilmann (Aus), L. Davies, X. Wunsch (Sp), M. McInerney, M. de Boer (Hol), L. Falcato (Bel), A. Fink (Austria), L. Hammond, R. Lautens (Swi), K. Espinosa (Fr), P. Rigby (Swe)

Only 14 of the 120 competitors beat par, which was as much due to the weather as the difficulty of the course. Nobody found the course so testing as Sandrine Mendiburu, the Frenchwoman who is a former United States junior champion and the winner of the Costa Azul Open last season. Her score of 94 was the highest of the day. Mendiburu had two eights, two sevens and sundry fives and sixes. She had one blazing birdie and only three pars. In complete contrast was Sarah Bennett, whose round of 72 comprised 18 pars.

Faldo rebutted, page 42

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